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### In today's **Business** Supplement

- ★ Will gold collapse in '97?
- ★ Why Japan's economy
- ★ Telecommuting gathers momentum
- Money

### Two Egoz soldiers killed

**DAVID RUDGE** 

TWO IDF soldiers from the elite Egoz unit, one of them an officer, were killed and two others seriously wounded in a Hizbullah roadside bomb attack inside the security zone yesterday.

One of those killed was identified as Capt. Yossi Levy of Kibbutz Kfar Haruv on the Golan

Their deaths brought to 27 the number of soldiers killed in fighting in south Lebanon this year

OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine, who was in the security zone yesterday with Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, blamed Syria for the recent escalation in fighting in-

south Lebanon. He said the attack came after 10 "stormy days" in south Lebanon. In this period Brig.-Gen Eli Amitai, head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit, was twice lightly wounded and Levine him-

self came under fire. Yesterday's attack followed an earlier, abortive roadside bombing by Hizbullah, and occurred in Markabeh village, in the zone's eastern sector, about 3 kilometers from the border.

Troops from the Egoz unit were returning on foot from operational duties when an explosive device was detonated alongside them, killing the commander of the force at the scene. Three thembers of the squad were seriously wounded, and were evacuated by helicopter directly to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

The hospital came under criticism for not having an ambulance waiting at the helicopter landing pad to transfer the wounded to the ĥospital building, some half a

kilometer away. Hospital director Prof. Moshe Revah said the hospital had received only a short warning of the impending arrival of the casualties, who were wheeled to the emergency room on stretchers. The IDF issued a statement rejecting this explanation.

One of the critically wounded was rushed immediately to the operating table, where he died of his wounds. The two other wounded were suffering from shrapnel wounds to various parts of their bodies. One was said to be suffering from spinal injuries and the other from wounds to his neck,

chest and legs.
Dr. Micha Peled, deputy head of Rambam's maxilla-facial surgery department, was called to the hospital after it was discovered that his son Amit was one of the seriously wounded. Peled told reporters at the scene that the news had come as a shock, but that he was proud of his son.

The Egoz unit, which specializes in anti-guerrilla warfare in south Lebanon in particular, was only recently unveiled to the pub-

Shahak, Levine and Amitai met with the force's commander and soldiers after the incident and held the first de-briefing session with

The three, accompanied by other senior IDF officers, had earlier met with South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad and members of his force at its headquarters in Marjayoun to extend Christmas and New Year's greetings.

Shahak and Levine were later interviewed by reporters near the northern border about the attack. (Continued on Page 2)



Hebron deal almost complete



US Special Envoy Dennis Ross, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and PA President Yasser Arafat in conversation during their

### Netanyahu must calm waters of his troubled coalition

THERE is bound to be an uproar within the coalition over whatever Hebron agreement Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is cook ing tip. But will the banks turn to bites, and is the government in any danger?

In plain arithmetic, there is no doubt it will survive. For one thing, the opposition inside the cabinet to whatever Netanyahu may have worked out with Arafat yesterday is probably not overwhelming. Sure, to be counted among the ministers voting against any deal in the offing are National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Science Minister Ze'ev Binyamin Begin of the Likud.

The NRP's Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy are also likely opponents. Some politi-cal pundits predict heavy criticism from Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, even though he may ultimately back Netanyahu

with reluctance. Yisrael Ba'aliya's Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein is also reportedly uneasy, though he may be placated. The rest of the ministers, regardless of the rhetoric, will eventually toe

Moreover, even the Hebron Jewish community's most zealous defenders do not really want this government to fall. They have no better option from their own vantage point, and will prefer to cut their losses and gird them-

Even if some of the dichards were prepared to commit political suicide, Netanyahu could resort to the national unity whip. In other words, all firebrands know that the government cannot really fall, because Labor's Shimon Peres has been all but banging down Netanyahu's door in a desperate bid to lead Labor as its senior cabinet minister before MK Ehud Barak manages to wrest the party primacy this summer. Should Netanyahu find himself in a political bind, it will be Barak who will have most to worry about.

Finally the opposition, spearheaded by Meretz, will offer its safety net to Netanyahu, albeit with criticism aplenty. The Hebron deal cannot bring the government down, just as the

Camp David agreement did not bring down the Begin government in 1979.

Just; the same, Netanyahu can't afford 2. revolt in his ranks, even if it's a hopeless one, and even if all it generates is a piercing outcry. He cannot afford to be seen as dependent on Meretz's mercy, especially as Meretz supporters will not vote for him next time around. It is unlikely that he really wants Labor in his cabinet now. He cannot move any of his ministers aside at this juncture and he doesn't want Peres appearing to have come to his rescue, and to essume the role of coach to the upstart rookie.

Although few in number, the opponents can do untold PR damage to Netanyahu, who is already suffering from bad press. They can trash his agreement and with it any claim he may have to have concluded a better deal than Labor. If, as may be, blood is spilled in Hebron, they will blame him. They can shake his power base and take his popularity to unprecendented lows. This is bound to weaken his administration and his ability to negotiate and respond effectively to emergencies. Netanyahu must calm the troubled coalition waters, even if they

mented. I think that will help clear

the atmosphere and create hope

for the people all over this area

that the peace is coming and

cooperation will start," Mubarak

and starting the final-status nego-

tiations could create trust with

Syria for it to start negotiations,"

Mordechai said that once an

agreement on Hebron was signed,

Israel would continue with further

redeployment in the West Bank.

"I know that the positions are

very close," Mordechai said. "I

think that most of the obstacles are

behind us and I estimate that the

signature will be very soon -

tomorrow, the next day, very soon

"Solving the Hebron problem

### Mordechai, Sharon clash over security details

Minister Netanyahu and Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat made key security-related tradeoffs at their meeting in Erez yesterday and instructed their negotiators to accelerate work on details of a Hebron pullback.

Privately, Israeli and Palestinian officials voiced hope the two sides would meet again tomorrow to initial the agreement, but US officials last night stressed caution. In a briefing for reporters, a senior official in Jerusalem predicted an agreement within a week.

After the document is initialed, it will be brought before the Israeli and PA cabinets before it is signed. Netanyahu is expected to pass the agreement by a fairly large margin. The pullback from Hebron should take no longer than a week, a US official said yesterday:

As Netanyahu sought to win coalition support for the impending accord, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon clashed last night at a cabi-

net meeting. After Sharon said the agreement is poor from a security standpoint, Mordechai challenged him, saying,
"I am not your trainee soldier."

US special Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross, who brokered yesterday's meeting, hailed the three-and-a-half-hour summit, saying the two sides "made real progress." Ross emphasized that the tone of the meeting was good and signalled a partnership between the two, even though at one point Arafat - who has staged several tantrums at different points in the negotiations - stood up and suggested he intended to walk out.

In order to build confidence between Arafat and Netanyahu, the two, along with Ross, met alone much of the time, only calling in aides to address specific issues.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu, seeking to further mend a rift with Egypt, last night phoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The call followed Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's red-carpet treatment during talks yesterday with Mubarak and four Egyptian cabinet ministers (see adjacent story).

According to a statement released by Netanyahu's office, the premier thanked Mubarak for his efforts to bring about an agreement. Last week, Mubarak had complained that Netanyahu had reneged on a promise to invite Foreign Minister Amr Moussa to become involved in the Hebron

Beyond the mere fact that the two sides spent extensive time with each other, the highlight of yesterday's session seemed to be what several have called a "trade-off" on security issues. Specifically, the Palestinians will adhere to perimeter zones outside the Jewish areas of Hebron, where restrictions on Palestinians using rifles will prevent sniping at set-

In return, Israel will relinquish its insistence on explicit language that would enable it to act preemptively against potential attacks from the Palestinian area.

The Hebron agreement is to be accompanied by an American document - currently entitled "Note for the Record" and informally known as the "road map." In that document, a senior official in Jerusalem said, "reciprocal" Palestinian obligations to Israel and Israeli obligations to the Palestinians beyond Hebron will

While some bave characterized this US document as being "90% done," some details remain. This document will also contain the date of the first IDF pullback beyond Hebron, something mandated by Oslo 2, which is expected to occur

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in the coming weeks.

The official also made clear that Israel would have to implement all three pullbacks, as mandated by Oslo. He said the first pullback would not occur until after the cabinet puts forward principles on a final status deal with the Palestinians.

It is also expected that the US document will note other unresolved issues, such as prisoner releases, establishment of the Dahaniya airport, implementing safe-passage routes between the West Bank and Gaza, and further easing of the closure.

The official said Israel is insisting that the Palestinians "first and foremost" enumerate what parts of the PLO Covenant have been abrogated, disarm Hamas, and reduce the number of Palestinian policemen in accordance with ceilings set in Oslo 2

When asked if there would be linkage between the Israeli and Palestinian adherence to the "road map," the official declared, "There is no explicit linkage. There are usually no penalty clauses in agreements. However, linkage is

implied." A moment of tension occurred yesterday when Arafat insisted on a Palestinian role at the Machpela Cave equivalent to Israel's current role. While Netanyahu made clear that he wants no joint patrols around the site, Arafat charged Netanyahu was being disrespectful of Palestinian religious rights.

Officials say Arafat was not at the door and about to leave the morn: however, he did stand up. According to Reuters, citing a Palestinian official, "Arafat was screaming, 'If you want to control Al-Ibrahimi Mosque, take everything. Take Hebron, I don't want it. You don't want an agreement on Hebron. You don't want to agree on anything.' "According to the report, Netanyahu was stunned by Arafat's outburst.

Netanyahu reportedly replied. "I understand your feelings, your emotions. I respect that."

Then Arafat apologized for the outburst and told Netanyahu, "You have to understand the religious attachment and my feelings," and Netanyahu responded: "I respect

In the end, an official said there seemed to be a conceptual understanding that the Moslem Wakf operating at the cave would establish a liaison relationship with the local joint Israeli-Palestinian coordination office.

Jon Immanuel adds: Palestinian negotiators were generally optimistic about the direction of yesterday's summit, but would not go into details. Delegation leader Saeb Erekat said, "Once we work in consistency with the agree-

ments we don't have any problems. "What they are doing is working to reach an agreement that is consistently within the framework of the interim agreement. But the section of the interim agreement on Hebron, the guidelines for Hebron

Delegation spokesman Marwan Kanafani said that "the continuation of the talks on the level of technicians shows that there is a chance to achieve progress, if the Israeli side is flexible.

### don't threaten his immediate political survival. Red Cross documents Mordechai finds reveal how much it knew of Nazi atrocities

DANIEL KURTZMAN

THE International Committee of the Red Cross has released a collection of World War II documents showing the organization knew of the persecution of Jews in Nazi death camps, but felt powerless to speak out.

One of the most startling revelations contained in the records is that the Nazis agreed to let Red Cross workers into German concentration camps in March 1945 to try to ensure the prisoners' safety. Relief workers took advantage of the disarray within the Nazi regime in the weeks before its defeat, pleading with concentration camp commanders to allow them access to Jewish inmates, according to the documents, which were given to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum last week. However, the arrangement

prevented the Red Cross from

removing prisoners. After 18 months of prodding from Holocaust museum officials, the Red Cross recently agreed to change a long-standing policy and onen its wartime records to the public. The 25,000 microfilmed pages turned over to the museum contain Red Cross workers' firsthand accounts of Nazi atrocities.

Red Cross workers "are the most credible witnesses to these crimes," Miles Lerman, chairman of the US Holocaust Memorial Council, said at a ceremony marking the documents release. "Your representatives were permitted into the camps and you saw the unbelievable and recorded it and kept it in your files." The Red Cross has long

(Continued on Page 2)

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak had a 90-minute tete-atete yesterday with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in this Red Sea resort and emerged

he linked improved relations with progress with the Palestinians. Mubarak also said he believed success in the negotiations with the Palestinians would lead to the renewal of peace talks between Israel and Syria. He added that once the agreement on the Hebron withdrawal was signed, he would invite Prime Minister Binyamin

lic opinion whenever [Hebron] agreement is imple-

### Latin patriarch marches amid Palestinian flags in Bethlehem

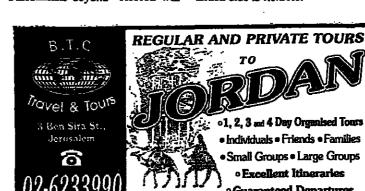
THOUSANDS took advantage of the unseasonably sunny weather and gathered in Bethlehem's Manger Square yesterday to watch Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah make his ceremonial entry into the town, and also to catch a glimpse of Suha Arafat.

"Is that Mrs. Arafat?" asked a Swedish tourist, pointing to a well-dressed blonde woman standing in the square and talking to officials.

She was disappointed. The wife of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in a limousine which drove up to the steps of the Bethlehem Police Station, where she was quickly ushered inside. She emerged again briefly and waved to the crowd, to emerge again only when Sabbah appeared.

The crowd, mostly Palestinian Moslems and Christians, included only a small sprinkling of foreign tourists. They waited patiently for several hours as boy and girl scout troops, many with drums and bagpipes, marched into the square. Each troop carried a Palestinian flag, while strings of additional Palestinian flags fluttered overhead. A large picture of Arafat decorated the facade of one of the buildings overlooking the

Due to the crowds, Sabbah entered the square about an hour behind schedule. He was greeted by local dignitaries and representatives of other Christian communities and then made his way into the Basilica of the Nativity, from where he entered St. Catherine's Church.





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# warmth in Egypt

HURGHADA, Egypt

to say a "new atmosphere" has surfaced in the Middle East, but

Netanyahu to Cairo. "There were great suspicions since the beginning of July until now, but since [Monday's] talks, there is a good impression ... that this will create a new atmosphere and will help us and help the pub-

there will be a signature - and there will be a continuation of the process with the Palestinians," he added. Mordechai, who came to Hurghada as Mubarak's personal guest, was greeted without fanfare and quickly shuttled to a hotel villa where the Egyptian president received him. But Mubarak brought to the Red Sea resort the top Egyptian

leadership, including Prime Minister Kamal Ganzoury. Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, Defense Minister Mohammed Hussein Tantawi and the influential Tourism Minister Mamduh Belteggi.

(Continued on Page 9)

# NRP threatens to break coalition ranks over Hebron

THE National Religious Party is threatening to vote against a Hebron agreement if it comes to a vote in the Knesset or the cabinet.

NRP MKs are expected to meet Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu today. During a briefing of the government last night, Netanyahu reportedly promised to present the ministers with details of a Hebron agreement before it is initialled, though there were clashes between National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The NRP faction earlier held a meeting with Sharon, who is trying to broaden opposition to the agreement within the government. Sharon told the NRP MKs that, having studied the plans, he discovered "the agreement was much worse than I thought and I can't support it." Apart from Sharon and the two NRP ministers - Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy and Education Minister Zevulun Science and Technology Minister Binyamin Ze'ev Begin is also expected to

is also uncertain. Moledet filed a no-confidence motion over the "abandonment of the Jewish community in

vote against the agreement. The

support of other ministers, such as

Limor Livnat (Communications),

NRP faction chairman Hanan Porat said: 'The faction takes a serious view of the agreement as it

HEBRON University is to reopen after being shut 10 months ago

after last spring's suicide attacks, the military governor of Hebron

told university officials yesterday.

Dr. Nabil Abu Zneid, the univer-

sity's spokesman, met the gover-

nor, Col. Baruch Najjar, for one

hour. Najjar told him that "in two

days, he will send an official letter.

It was their second meeting in

The IDF closed the university in

March after four suicide bombings

stunned Israel. Two of the

bombers were from the Fawwar

refugee camp, south of Hebron.

but were not students at the uni-

Recently, students at the univer-

sity have protested outside its

gates and held classes in the street.

A group of Likud and Gesher MKs led by Likud fac-

tion leader Michael Eitan met seven Palestinian busi-

nesspeople and Palestinian Authority representatives

in Jerusalem yesterday to discuss closer economic

Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has approved between

The aim of the gathering was to establish a dia-

logue, rather than make specific decisions, according

to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's economic adviser

"We trust that with more dialogue and more open-

"We need to open up dialogue between people

ness and frankness, we will be able to overcome

who've never dialogued before," said Gershon Baskin, director of the Israel/Palestine Center for

Research and Information, which suggested the meet-

ing. "They [Likud] want to be very cautious about

Among those attending were Knesset Finance

Committee members Silvan Shalom, Meir Sheetrit,

Michael Kleiner and Maxim Levy, together with

Palestinian Food Industries Association chairman

MKs and Palestinians to discuss the economy.

many of the misunderstandings," Kurd said.

this, but the fact is it is happening.

The informal meeting was the first one Prime

open," Abu Zneid said.

two days.

versity.

LIAT COLLINS

has been presented and is convinced that it is insufficient to ensure the safety of the Jewish community in Hebron and the conditions for its existence and development. The trend is to advise the NRP ministers to vote against the agreement and to form a broad front with other ministers

NRP MKs are demanding the prime minister make certain changes to the agreement including not to open Shuhada Street, "which is the main artery of the Jewish community, and to prevent the entrance of 600 freed terrorists to the market close to Jewish homes," according to Porat.

The faction also demanded that building immediately commence within the Jewish Quarter of Hebron, in eastern Jerusalem, and Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

"The NRP is in a serious Catch-22 situation," said NRP MK Shaul Yahalom. "If it leaves the government, within five minutes a national unity government will be created with Shimon Peres, which will be a thousand times worse." Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy

was more reserved, saying the main principle was to ensure continued construction in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, and to halt the Osio process.

Hebron University to open for

first time since suicide attacks

JON IMMANUEL

University administrators at the

1,600-student institution regarded

the closure as unfair, saying it was

based largely on an Israeli percep-

tion of Hebron University as an

Islamic hotbed. It is frequently,

but incorrectly, called the Hebron

ago, the Islamic list won a narrow

The lifting of the security

restrictions and easing of the clo-

sure to allow married, 28-year-old

men with two children to work in

Israel appears to be part of a pat-

tern of tension-releasing measures

as Israel and the Palestinian

Authority head down the last

negotiating stretch before the IDF

withdraws from most of Hebron.

Likud, Gesher MKs meet PA

businesspeople; Blumenthal walks out

majority.

In student elections two years

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said

his nine MKs "would replace the nine NRP MKs" if it came to a vote on the Hebron agreement and the NRP refused to support it. "For this purpose, Meretz would become the NRP."

The Third Way also discussed Hebron in a faction meeting in the Knesset yesterday and called on the prime minister and Arafat to sign the redeployment in Hebron as soon as possible. "Any further delay is likely to put a question mark over the entire peace process," said faction chairman Yehuda Harel. Third Way MKs promised their support for the pro-

Yisrael Ba'aliva MKs issued a statement after their meeting on the Hebron issue saying "the faction is committed to the continuation of the peace process and sees the preservation of the safety of the Jewish community in Hebron and Kiryat Arba as essential for its support of the agreement. The faction believes the security of the Jewish community is the guarantee of protecting the entire peace."

Shas MK Shlomo Benizri said his party will support the agreement as long as spiritual mentor Ovadia Yosef gives it his blessing. "It's a way of thawing out the peace process," Benizri said. -

Ephraim Sneh (Labor) said there were "only small technical pity six months were wasted on this." changes to the agreement. It's a

Tension in Hebron has increased

sharply during the past month, as skirmishes between settlers and

Palestinians have become a near

Najjar asked Abu Zneid to

ensure that the university students

devote themselves to academic

studies and not political protest,

but it is clear that the IDF will not be able to close the university

again once redeployment takes

Abu Zneid, a political scientist,

expressed hope that Israeli and

Palestinian universities would be able to cooperate. "I think the uni-

versities should be more in acade-

mic than in political life. In the

1970s and 80s, they assumed a

political role. Now I have to sell

the decision to the students," he

said. He expects the university to

reopen in a few days.

Mazen Sinokrot, Jerusalem Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Contracting chairman Khaled Osaily.

ple, not officials," she said.

president Mohamed Masrouji and Osaily Trading

MK Naomi Blumenthal also arrived at the Holiday

daily occurrence.

# All eyes on Hebron, but for Jewish residents life continues as usual

YESTERDAY was yet another day of 'almost" in the Jewish settlement in Hebron. Once again the eyes of the world were cast on the city; once again the international media descended on the settlement, once again the settlement's leaders waited; and once again

no redeployment agreement was signed. "We're getting used to this," said settlement spokesman David Wilder. "We've gone through this a lot over the last few months."

As the settlement's leaders had their attention focused on the talks at the Erez Junction, kindergarten-aged children in the Avraham Avinu Compound were busy chasing a rabbit, outwardly oblivious to the changes the Erez

talks could presage for their lives.

The much heralded and often palpable "tension in Hebron" was not apparent in the settlement yesterday. Life inside the Jewish compounds continued as usual. A music therapy teacher held workshops for 12- and 13year-old girls in Avraham Avinu, yeshiva

studies continued in Beit Romano, and tourists continued making their way to the Machpela Cave.

The settlement leaders huddled throughout the day in the settlement's offices in Avraham Avinu, intermittently breaking off to respond to reporters' questions.

Yes, they are "deeply disappointed" in Netanyahu, they said. No, they do not think the agreement being ironed out by Netanyahu is better than the one that was agreed upon by Peres. Yes, they will remain in Hebron.

The PLO has stated that they want to

destroy the settlement in Hebron, and the police they want to bring in here are the tool," said the settlement's leader, Noam Arnon, visibly fatigued from the pace and tension of the

Amon said the he has no illusions that the

settlement can do anything to physically pre-vent the redeployment. "We are not going to take over the civil administration building once the IDF pulls out," he said. But he said there are likely to be various forms of

One was hinted at in Arnon's reaction to the protest. government's decision yesterday to re-open the Islamic College in the city. The government, by reopening the Islamic College - a Hamas bastion - after the riots there a week ago, has once again proven to the Arabs that terror and violence pay. We will see how the government will respond if Jews enter Jewish-owned property in Hebron, and if their treatment will be the same, or whether they will be aggressively and forcefully

vicusu. In a meeting in Kiryat Arba last night, it was decided by local Jewish activists to flood Hebron with Jews beginning this Shabbat, to show a strong Jewish presence in the city.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (left) welcomes Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to Egypt yesterday.

### Mordechai to **Mubarak: Azzam** not an Israeli spy

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN HURGHADA, Egypt

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai gave his word to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that Azzam Azzam, the Israeli citizen that Egypt is holding on suspicion of spying for Israel, is not working for any

Israeli intelligence agency.

"I asked the president to do his utmost to release Azzam Azzam and I gave him my word that Azzam is not connected to or operated by or linked to any Israeli security network," Mordechai said after a 90minute meeting with Mubarak.

Azzam worked at the Egyptian-Israeli Tefron textile factory in Cairo and was arrested on November 6 by Egyptian security agents in front of a Cairo hotel. Egyptian authorities have said that Azzam confessed to espionage charges, but Israeli officials said that the Egyptians were will-

Mubarak, speaking to reporters following the meeting with Mordechai, dismissed the issue, saying it was inflated by the media and is now in the hands of the Egyptian justice system.

### **Defense minister meets** former classmate

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN HURGHADA, Egypt

A tall, white-haired man in a tweed jacket approached Defense Ministry Yitzhak Mordechai as he walked toward his waiting limousine at this Red Sea resort. They met and hugged like old friends, not the former

Samir Mutawali, a retired general in the Egyptian Army, and Mordechai both studied at the British military college at Camberley 20 years ago. Back then, in the wake of the Yom Kippur War, they found nemselves studying military tactics in the same class.

"He wouldn't even talk to me," said Mordechai, who was a colonel at the time. "We spent a year together at Camberley and all the times I tried to start up a conversation with him, he wouldn't respond. It was just after the war and the other Arab classmates threatened him if he did. I tried many times."

But Mutawali, also a colonel then, recalled that they were buddies and

pulled out their class photograph.
"We were both younger then," laughed Mutawali, today one of the managers of the very resort where Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was hosting Mordechai.

Mordechai promised to help promote the resort among Israeli tourists and invited the Egyptian general to visit him in Israel.

### **EGOZ**

situation. They have the ability to heat up or calm the situation, but it would be wrong to draw conclusions now," said Shahak.

There has been an escalation since the US elections," Levine said. "There is cooperation with the Syrians. In my opinion the Katyusha rockets [fired at the Galilee last week] were fired by [Ahmed] Jibril's organization, which takes instructions from

Reports from Lebanon said IDF and SLA gunners shelled suspected Hizbullah targets north of the zone and IAF helicopter gunships strafed infiltration trails in response to the roadside bomb

attacks. There were no reports of any casualties as a result of the artillery or helicopter gunship

In a separate incident yesterday, Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars at an SLA post in the Jezzine enclave north of the security zone, without causing any injuries or damage. SLA gunners returned

### **RED CROSS**

(Continued from Page 1) acknowledged that it knew about the Nazi persecution of Jews. But the organization has maintained that if it had disclosed that knowledge during World War II, its ability to monitor prisoner-of-war camps on both sides would have

been compromised.

(Continued from Page 1)

Lebanon) and there are frequent

incidents. The only difference is

the time gap between the inci-

dents," Shahak said. Regarding

possible collaboration between

Shahak replied that the matter

needed to be investigated before

The Syrians are heating up the

he could give concrete answers.

local residents and Hizbullah,

"There's a war (in south

The International Committee of the Red Cross has shared responsibility for the silence of the world community," said Georges Willemin, the organization's archivist. "Could we have gone further? Could we have done more? I don't know."

Lerman said the documents would help answer that question. When asked why it took the Red Cross more than 50 years to make the records available. Willemin said, "It takes time to

face your own history." He added that the decision to release the records "was an important change for an organizacy of its records so as not to run any risk of impairing its humanitarian work and its reputation for impartiality and neutrality."

Museum officials have so far only superficially examined the Red Cross records, which are expected to provide details on rescue missions, visits to concentration camps and ghettos, deportation operations and Jewish emigration during and after the war. The documents will be available at the Holocaust museum and on the World Wide Web early next

Copies will also be kept at Yad Vashem and at the Center for Jewish Documentation in Paris.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will not mice place today at 1.00 pm at the Jerusalem: 02-531-5608 531-5639

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NADA Haji Ali, 66, of Shfaram, was killed late Monday night when two cars collided on the Shfaram-Tamra road. The acci-

### resigns from iudicial committee BAR Association head Dror

Hoter-Yishai resigned yesterday from the judicial appointment committee, following his indictment for tax offenses. Hoter-Yishai submitted his res-

Hoter-Yishai

ignation to the national council of law offices. The move contradicted his statement Saturday night in which he said he would suspend himself from the committee, and not resign. He will be replaced by lawyer Haim Klugman.

### Woman killed in Galilee crash

dent occurred when one of the cars swerved out of its lane and crashed head-on into the other vehicle. Three other people were seriously injured in the crash.

#### Inn Hotel for the meeting, but left after learning that PA representatives would be present. "I understood this would only be with businesspeo-Eitan called her decision bizarre. "Our party head met the chairman of the PA, we ing to let the charges drop. are now the party of government," Eitan said. There are several MKs among us who have yet to grasp this, and think we are still in opposition or that

ridiculous for Likud to abandon a major area of its "We can welcome any Jew, any Christian, any human being to come to live in Hebron," said Osaily, who is also the city's deputy mayor. "Unfortunately, the Hebron settlers are the most extreme Israeli Jews. We are not against Jews coming to live with us, but these people haven't come to coexist with Arabs, they

they are members of other parties. It would be

came to replace Arabs." Osaily called for an early "remm to normality" in the city.

#### Netzarim road opened to Palestinians THE Defense Ministry announced yesterday that it will open the road

from Netzarim to the Mediterranean Sea to Palestinian traffic. This road has been closed to all but Jewish traffic because of security concerns. since the creation of the Palestinian Authority two years ago.

Gaza and Netzarim settlement leaders were furious at the decision, claiming the security situation has not changed in the area, and that it constitutes a security risk to have Palestinian cars travel on the road which comes within 50 meters of the settlement. The settlement leaders said they believe opening the road is a concession granted to the Palestinians in the hope that they will give something in return elsewhere. Herb Keinon



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A worker injured in a work accident talks with Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai yesterday at the inauguration of a mobile unit to teach safety on the job, set up at a Jerusalem construction site. The unit screens films on safety in the workplace in four languages, including Romanian and Arabic.

(Rom Ne eman)

# Yekutieli: Curb Mordechai's Eliyahu's political activity

FORMER chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, who now sits on the Rabbinical Court of Appeals, is acting in a manner unbefitting a judge by engaging in political activity on behalf of the National Religious Party, a petition to the High Court

of Justice charged yesterday.

The petition, by Jerusalem city councilman Ornan Yekutieli (Meretz), asked the court to order Minister Binyamin

nary charges against Eliahu. The petition noted that Eliahu participated in various NRP election rallies earlier this year, one of which was filmed for use in the NRP's televised election advertisements. The Central Elections Committee forbade the party to run the advertisement on the grounds that judges on the Rabbinical Court of Appeals Netanyahu, who is also Religious had the status of Supreme Court jus-Affairs minister, to file discipli-

Eliahn was also quoted in the press as saying God had chosen Netanyahu to be prime minister and was reportedly active in coalition negotiations on the NRP's behalf. His personal assistant, Rabbi Zafrani, was appointed as director-general of this ministry, the petition said.

In addition, Eliabu has publicly opposed a withdrawal from Hebron and other aspects of the Oslo Accords, the petition noted.

### Thousands tie up traffic at graveside prayer session in North

POLICE are having a difficult time coping with the masses of people attending prayers at the tombs of the righteons in Galilee conducted by Rabbi Ya'acov Yisrael Afargan of Netivot.

On Monday night more than 5,000 people converged on the grave of Yonatan Ben-Uziel in

Amuka, near Safed, to participate in the prayers. Ben-Uziel, who was a pupil of Hillel in the first century BCE, translated the Prophets into Aramaic.

Monday's event caused tremendous traffic tie-ups, with some people forced to walk three or four

sick people came to the prayer ses-sion, hoping to be cured.

Among those attending were actors Ze'ev Revah and Yehuda Barkan and singer Rami Danoch. At least four television crews were on hand to film the event, which attracted worldwide attention.

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### 'Anti-abortion bill' worries Labor MKs

A BILL that would give an and Avi Yehezkel all agreed to embryo the status of a human withdraw their signatures on the being from the moment of conception is causing consternation among the opposition parties. The bill that Shas MK Yitzhak Cohen submitted this week would mean that abortions could be classed as manslaughter.

MK Ofir Pines (Labor) noted that some of the 51 MKs who signed the bill were Labor MKs and demanded the faction discuss

"It is inconceivable that faction members help in a regression to the old days when a woman did not have rights over her own body," Pines wrote in a letter to faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen. He said breaking the religious status quo and surrendering basic

human rights would not help bring the haredi parties closer to MK Yael Dayan (Labor); chairwoman of the Knesset Committee

on the Status of Women, asked the MKs who signed the bill to Ephraim Oshaya, Micha Goldman harm to women."

"I will stop blindly supporting Shas bills despite attempts to bring the two parties closer," said Yehezkel, who described the bill as "invalid and disgusting," after he read it. He said Shas had exploited his good intentions by asking him to sign it.

Esther Hecht adds: Israel Women's Network director Lesley Sachs said the bill "aims to return Israel to the darkness of the Middle Ages and to make women risk their lives when they must terminate an unwanted pregnancy.

She said the IWN, a women's rights lobby, was dismayed that Labor and Likud MKs had signed the bill and wondered whether they, too, favored the knitting-needle and wire hanger methods for terminating abortions.

"No law will prevent termination of unwanted pregnancies," she said, "and it's known that scind their support. Labor MKs back-street abortions do physical

### Feminist lobby sues company for firing woman over fertility treatments

THE Israel Women's Network announced yesterday that it has sned the Oz Gum Ltd. plastics company for NIS 54,997 on behalf of a woman who was fired for missing work due to fertility treatments. Oz Gum hired the woman in April 1995. Later in the year, she told her immediate supervisor that she was undergoing fertility treatment and he assured her that it would not be a problem. However, on January 14, 1996, after she had missed eight days of work over three months due to the treatments, her supervisor informed her she was fired because of the treatments. fired because of the treatments.

The woman then found another job, but was dismissed from it when her new employer learned that she was pregnant, her lawyer, Dafna Haker, wrote in her petition to the Tel Aviv Regional Labor Jerusalem Post Staff

### Hanegbi promises full effort to bring Pollard here

JUSTICE Minister Tzahi Hanegbi has said he will take all action possible to bring Jonathan Pollard

Hanegbi was responding to a letter by MK Ophir Pines (Labor) who asked that the minister act according to the newly passed law which enables Israel to ask for criminals sentenced abroad to serve their jail terms here. Pines said Israel is "morally obliged" to bring Pollard here to serve his sentence "in a more sympathetic atmosphere.

Hanegbi said he agreed that every effort must be made to bring Pollard here to serve the rest of his sentence. He said Israel is in the process of becoming a party

to a European convention, of which the US is also a member. which would enable Pollard to ask either the US or Israel to allow him to come here. However, the agreement with the US meant the decision is entirely at the discretion of the American authorities,

"As for our stand, despite the fact that Mr. Pollard does not permanently reside in Israel and was not an Israeli citizen at the time the offense was committed, I will act when I can to release him from these conditions according to the authority invested me ander Paragraph 7B of the Transfer of Prisoners Law," Hanegbi wrote.

### Ecuadoran defense minister tours IAI

STEVE RODAN

ISRAEL and Ecuador aim to continue defense cooperation including the purchase of subsystems for the Kfir jet-fighters in the Ecuadoran air force, defense sources said yesterday.

Discussions regarding such cooperation took place this week during the visit of Ecuadoran Defense Minister Grae Victor Bayas Garcia. The minister was accompanied by his air force chief, Tgrae Rael Hernan Quiroz. Mordechai in which they dis-Cussed areas of future cooperation. in the mid-1980s, Ecuador bought a squadron of Kfir fighter-jets

manufactured by IAL Garcia and Quiroz later visited IAI. Defense sources said the Ecuadoran visitors explored the purchase of additional weapons systems for the Kfir. Quiroz said the Kfirs have improved his nation's defense significantly, and that he expects a continuation of cooperation between IAI and the Ecuadoran air force. Garcia expressed appreciation for the defense ties between the two countries and said he hoped new Both visitors held talks with countries and said he hoped new Defense Minister Yitzhak avenues of cooperation would be

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IAI director-general Moshe Keret said Ecuador is one of Israel's and IAI's best friends.



JULIJANA MOJSILOVIC BELGRADE

WEEKS of mostly peaceful demonstrations exploded into vioience yesterday as supporters of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic clashed with his opponents and club-wielding police intervened.

One opposition protester was shot and two others were stabbed during the rival demonstrations that started with protesters hurling mud, sticks and cabbage at one

The violence dramatically escalated tensions in what had been more than four weeks of relatively calm demonstrations by the opposition against Milosevic and his annulment of local elections won by the opposition November 17.

Yesterday's opposition protest drew the largest number of demonstrators yet, with 300,000 people. Milosevic, who has made few public statements about the unrest. told his supporters that the opposition leaders were foreign lackeys

trying to break up Serbia. 'Strong Serbia is not to the liking of some powers abroad, and that's why they are trying to break it up," he told them. "We, of

course, won't let it happen." "We love you Slobo," chanted the crowd, some of whom said they were threatened with dismissal from their jobs if they did-

n't attend. Milosevic responded: "I love you too."

The pro-Milosevic demonstration was briefly disrupted as it was about to start, when someone lobbed tear-gas canisters into the crowd, sending hundreds running from the square.

The violence started when thousands of pro- and anti-Milosevic supporters gathered on Republic



Supporters of the Serbian opposition coalition Zajedno (Together) kick and beat a supporter of the Socialist Party of Serbia in the center of Belgrade yesterday. Fighting broke out after Serbian authorities bussed pro-government demonstrators across the country in a show of strength against Zajedno, which has held protests against socialist election fraud for the past 35 days.

Square, throwing eggs, cabbages, apples and empty plastic bottles at each other.

The initial exchange came as tens of thousands of student opposition demonstrators marched across the square, attacking the Milosevic supporters with sticks and hurling mud at them. The proMilosevic demonstrators retreated. Later, the shots were fired as a large group of anti-Milosevic activists cornered a smaller pro-Milosevic gathering on the main Knez Mihailova street.

One man was hit in the head. according to doctors who said his wound was not life-threatening. A

witness, Zlatko Mihajlovic, told The Associated Press a woman also was wounded. No information about her was available.

Elsewhere in the city, two opposition demonstrators were stabbed and wounded, witnesses said. There were no details.

Department spokesman Glyn Davies derided the "rent-a crowd counterdemonstrations" staged by Milosevic lieutenants. He warned that a "crackdown against the protesters will have serious consequences and lead to Serbia's further isolation from the internation-

# Peru prays for Christmas miracle to free hostages

LIMA (Reuter) - Marxist rebels fell silent yesterday on the fate of an estimated 140 hostages they were holding as Peru prayed for a Christmas miracle to set the captives free.

No communication has come the Tupac Amaru from Movement Revolutionary (MRTA) hostage-takers since President Alberto Fujimori sent them a stern message on Saturday telling them to surrender and release all their prisoners.

The captives, mostly top Peruvian government officials, Japanese businessmen or ambassadors to Peru, faced a nightmare Christmas under the guns of the rebels in foul, unsanitary conditions without water or electricity.

Plunged into gloom by the crisis, Peruvians prepared for a mis-erable Yuletide. One local bishop, Miguel Irizar, urged his countrymen not to celebrate at all. "We cannot have parties or be frivoious," he said.

Local television played specially composed songs and messages for the captives, but the lack of electricity inside the besieged residence meant it was unlikely the hostages would hear them. Roman Catholic Peruvians held a of all the hostages.

Japanese Prime Ryutaro Hashimoto, whose government has most at stake in the affair after Peru's because of the large number of Japanese hostages, predicted yesterday that the crisis would be a long, drawnout affair. Lima would try to wear the terrorists down rather than flush them out by force, he said.

"I think it will take time to resolve the crisis," Hashimoto told reporters shortly after speaking by telephone to Fujimori, a Peruvian whose parents came from Japan. The fact that it will take time means that no get-tough approach will be taken."

Fujimori's government believes the ball is now firmly in the court of the 20 or so rebels and wants them to give a response to its proposals before making any move. Peruvian media reported.

The government has given no official information to the hordes of waiting world media since the crisis began but rumors have swirled thick and fast. One story making the rounds among diplomats in Lima was that the government might be secretly negotiating a safe passage to Cuba for the Overnight, a small group of rebels in exchange for the release

### Over 2,000 arrested upon return to Rwanda

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) -Rwandan authorities have detained more than 2,000 people in a struggle to meet demands for justice by survivors of the 1994 genocide that left more than 500,000 people dead.

The mostly Hutu refugees, returning from camps in Tanzania and Zaire over the last two months, have been detained on suspicion of participating in the slaughter, UN human rights monitors said yesterday. Many of them have turned themselves in rather than face angry villagers.

Meanwhile, the flow of refugees returning from Tanzania continued yesterday as more than 30,000 refugees crossed into Rwanda, said Paul Stromberg, UN refugee agency spokesman in Kigali. About 40,000 returned home Monday and the flow was expected to continue throughout the

The refugees fled in mid-1994 following the state-organized massacre of more than 500,000 people, most of them Tutsis and

politically moderate Hutus. Shepherded by extremist Hutu leaders, the mainly Hutu refugees fled Rwanda when the Hutu government fell to Tutsi-led rebels. The refugees remained under the control of extremist leaders and refused to return home, fearing retaliation for the murders. There will be a higher number

of people detained as more people return. We hope the government will charge these people quickly," Stromberg said.

While leaders of the genocide living in Zaire have been able to escape repatriation to Rwanda. Tanzanian authorities have ordered all refugees to return home, leading to more arrests. Stromberg said.

These are small communities. so it is unlikely that when someone who participated in the genocide returns home they will go unnoticed," Stromberg said. "Some of these people who know they are guilty know they would face vigilante justice, so they turn themselves in instead '

Aid workers in the areas where the refugees are returning have reported few problems, but there have been incidents in some parts

of the country. A UN official in southeastern Rwanda said there have been a number of attempted lynchings. The UN High Commissioner for

Human Rights has sent more than 135 observers to Rwanda in an attempt to ensure observation of international norms on human

WORCESTER, South Africa (AP) - Two explosions in a crowded shopping area during yesterday's hectic Christmas Eve rush killed three people, injured dozens and left residents of this rural town wondering why they were target-

"I am so sad," sobbed Jan April, who clung to his wife at a local hospital where their 9-year-old daughter, Juanina, was declared dead on arrival. "Whoever did this is cruel, very cruel."

Police Superintendent Albie van Schalkwyk said the blasts at 1:45 p.m. (1145 GMT) at a large grocery store and a pharmacy a few blocks away were caused by pieces of pipe packed with commercial explosives. A 500,000 rand (\$110,000) reward was offered for information leading to convictions of those responsible.

Survivors described scenes of horror and chaos in the Shoprite Checkers supermarket in central Worcester, a farming town in the Western Cape wine country 100 kilometers northeast of Cape Town.

"I was standing in the queue to pay when I saw a white light and flames burning," said Anita April, who left her two children outside the store's entrance near the concrete trash bins where the bomb apparently was hidden.

her husband at Eben Donges hospital, she told how she rode in the ambulance with her daughter.

"Juanina was in too much pain to even cry," she said, breaking down. "She was hit in the stomach. They had shot her liver

away." In another room, 14-year-old Thembelane Present lay in bed with bandages on his head, chest and arms. He pleaded for someone to go tell his parents what happened, explaining they don't have

a telephone at home. Dr. Helise Schumann at Eben Donges confirmed three deaths two children and an adult. She said 49 injured people were at the hospital but that 20 or so were expected to be discharged soon because their wounds are relatively minor.

### Saudi Arabia charges British nurses with murder

LONDON (Reuter) - Two British nurses working in diplomats to visit the two nurses in custody in Dhahran. Saudi Arabia have been charged with murdering an Australian colleague, the Saudi embassy in London

Deborah Kim Parry, 41, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, had been held for questioning over the death of nurse Yvonne Gilford, 55, at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran. Gilford's body was found in her room on December

11. She had been stabbed four times, battered with a hammer and smothered.

There will be a trial which will examine the case in detail," an embassy statement said. "The Saudi government will ensure justice for all concerned." The case almost caused a diplomatic crisis when Saudi officials at first refused requests from British

But the London Foreign Office said Saudi authorities had finally agreed to allow local embassy staff to visit the two women, who have been held since Friday, and British consul Lawson Ross had been to

"They both told him they were being treated well," a Foreign Office spokesman said. "He helped facilitate calls to their families and both have been allowed by the prison authorities to collect some personal pos-They also asked Ross to help to arrange legal

advice for them, the spokesman added. Human rights groups have expressed concern over detention of the two women, who might be beheaded in public if convicted of murder.

### Thieves nabbed hiding in Miami toy shop ceiling

MIAMI (Reuter) - It is not only the man with the white beard and red suit who drops from the rooftop at Christmas in Miami - two men allegedly planning to raid a toy store were caught hiding in an air conditioning duct in a ceiling.

The men were waiting for the Toys R Us store to close on Monday so they could rifle the tills and rob the employees, police said yesterday. But they were talking so loudly they were overheard by employees, who called police.

The two were found in the ceiling along with guns, wirecutters, ski masks, gloves and flashlights. "It was a Christmas surprise for them," North Miami Beach Police Commander Alan Graham said

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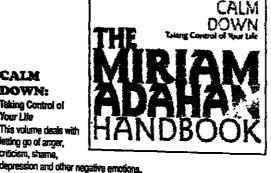
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### Jazz musician and club owner Ronnie Scott dies at 69

LONDON (AP) - Jazz musician Ronnie Scott, whose London club was a mecca for the world's leading jazz musicians, singers and their fans, has died at 69.

The tenor saxophonist, one of the founding fathers of modern jazz in Britain, collapsed and died at his home in Chelsea on Monday Romie's death is a very big

blow for all of us - it was so unexpected," said bandleader, composer and fellow saxophonist John Dankworth, who played alongside Ronnie Scott since the late 1940s. Scott was born near Petticoat Lane in London's tough East End. the son of Joseph Schatt, a Russian Jewish immigrant who changed his name to the more British-sounding Jock Scott, and who was a saxophonist in lack Hyiton's band, one of London's leading dance bands before World

Scott left school at age 15, found a job in a shop selling sheet music and in his spare time joined other musicians whenever they would

let him. Scott opened Ronnie Scott's Club in a basement in central London's Soho district in 1959.

inspired by the music of Charlie Parker and the New York bebop scene, by Dizzie Gillespie and by Thelonious Monk, Scott and his business parmer Pete King turned the club into Britain's leading

venue for modern jazz. The list of those who played there includes the Count Basic Band, Stan Getz, Ella Fitzgerald, Sonny Rollins and rock musician Jimi Hendrix.

Scott recently stopped playing tenor saxophone, but last week

# rapprochement unlikely to stop terror

URING the last couple of weeks, Israeli commentators on Palestinian affairs have been encouraged by the latest declarations of Moslem leaders in Gaza which indicated to them that Hamas has decided to abandon its military struggle. This continued the new wave of optimism that started recently with the large Moslem gathering in Khan Yunis, where, for the first time, a large picture of Arafat was hung beside those of Hamas heroes, and the general line of the speeches was "reconciliation with the Authority.'

There is no doubt that there is an ongoing process of rapprochement between the Palestinian Authority and the local leaders of the Moslem Brotherhood in

Gaza. One of the main Moslem figures in the Gaza Strip, Imad Faluji, even joined the PA as a minister. The gathering in Khan Yonis further advanced this line of development. The question remains, howeyer, whether this development will really put an end to Islamic terrorism against Israel. And the answer, is probably not.

The issue of stopping jihad activity against Israel has less to do with the PA and Hamas coming closer to each other, than with hudna - cease-fire with the Jewish State. To Hamas, there are many prerequisites necessary for hudna to materialize - a basic one being that the cease-fire will be achieved directly with the movement, not through the Authority. On this basic issue there is a dispute PINHAS INBARI

between the Gaza-based leadership, known to be close to the arrested leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and the polithuro which is located outside the Palestinian territories. While the Gaza-based leadership decided to refrain from open confrontations with the PA, after their bitter experiences in Palestinian jails, the outside politburo still keeps the original anti-Oslo fervor, demanding that the local leadership go on with the struggle.

After the wave of suicide bombs that shattered Israeli cities earlier this year,

and after the strict closures imposed on the Palestinians, the dispute between the two leaderships became tougher: "Do not impose on us a burden we cannot bear," the "inside" Hamas leaders told their colleagues "outside." As no agreement was reached, the local leaders decided to establish a "politburo" rival to the one "outside," principally in Amman and Damascus. This decision was announced by the spokesman of the movement in Gaza, Dr. Mahmud Zahhar, in an interview in the al-Quds daily newspaper.

This move started a couple of months ago, when the West Bank leaders asked the international leadership in Europe to recognize it as separate from the Amman center. For now, the Moslem Brotherhood international leadership refuses to recognize the Palestinians as separate from the Jordanians, and imposed Jordanian

seniority on them. Whether or not this leadership recognized Palestinian "independence" is not clear, but Jordanian Moslem Brothers became furious to hear their Palestinian colleagues' demands, and in the exchange of accusations it was made clear that the real representative of the "outside" politburo in Gaza was Dr. Abd al-Aziz Rantisi. currently in an Israeli prison. This means

that the possibility of "inside" Moslem Brothers organizing independent of the "outside" movement, and establishing a polithuro of their own, will have nothing to do with a cessation of terrorism. On the contrary, their is a danger that the "outside" politburo - in order to stress the fact that it holds the military option - will decide to carry on new military attacks on Israeli targets.

One of the "outside" claims against Zahhar and his colleagues in Gaza, is that under PA rule they lost their free will and right to make decisions; and their rap-prochement with the PA is not a matter of conviction, but of coercion. What seems to be certain is that they will not agree to Arafat mediating a cease-fire with Israel.

### Gulf Arabs bemoan brideprices, divorce rates

ASSER Ali says he could never afford a wife from his native United Arab Emirates because he would live in debt all his life to meet soaring

"brideprices" and wedding costs. "As much as one would like to, getting married to an Emirati girl will ruin your pocket, especially if you have no rich father to count on," said the US-educated banker.
"She will make impossible

demands which will force you to look for a foreign wife. And her parents will insist on a 1,001-night wedding party at a hotel to show

Considering Moslem men may take up to four wives at the same time, high marriage costs are driving up to 40 percent of UAE men to seek a foreign wife, a trend officials blame for rising divorce rates and a growing number of UAE

Brideprices have gone up to between 25,000 (NIS 22,500) and 100,000 dirhams (NIS 90,000) from 500 dirhams (NIS 1,600) in the 1960s. This excludes gold gifts and lavish wedding parties thrown in hotels that cost between 5,000 and 250,000 dirhams.

The UAE has launched an antidivorce campaign and is considering banning its men from marrying non-Arabs to shield society from the "bad influences" of

mixed marriages. Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar have all imposed similar restric-

tions on mixed marriages. Thirty-six in every 100 mar-riages in the UAE in recent years ended in divorce, compared with riages in the 1980s, according to a recent study by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry.

Mixed unions are not the only reason for more divorce in the Gulf States.

Social workers link greater openness, more women joining the labor force and improved living standards after the oil boom in the 1970s, to failed marriages across Gulf Arab states that have long shunned break-ups as shameful and despicable.

Family interference, immaturity, money problems, different backgrounds, physical abuse, infertility and traditions banning men from dating their wives before marriage are also blamed for rising divorce

Many younger Gulf Arabs ques-tion the traditional marriage process in the region - where most women are covered in black shawls and most unions are arranged by parents chiefly concerned with status and money. That also holds true in the UAE.

a relatively open society where alcohol is available in hotels and foreign women wear bikinis on beaches and walk in short skirts on the streets,

Westerners who have helped transform Gulf Arab countries from desert backwaters to lands of gleaming skyscrapers and luxury cars have also spread Western culture that is resented by older gen-

erations, experts say.

"All this helped dilute traditions," said Moza al-Abbar, a labor and social affairs ministry

Rising divorce rates have fueled

"Even if divorce is an international phenomenon, we see this as a dangerous indicator as we fear it will mushroom," said Jamal al-Bah, who heads the UAE statesponsored Marriage Fund set up in 1992 to encourage nationals to marry local women. Divorce has even hit Saudi Arabia, the most conservative and influential state in the region where restrictions on women extend to a ban on their driving cars.

In the Saudi capital, Riyadh, officials reported 8,500 marriages and 3,000 divorces in 1995, especially among younger couples and older men taking second wives, sometimes teenagers. "One marriage every hour and

one divorce every six hours in Sandi Arabia," screamed the head-

line of a local newspaper.

Divorce in Knywait is still climbing after the 1991 Gulf War.

It increased by 7 percent during the first balf of this year compared Ministry figures released recently. Failed marriages jumped up to 31 percent in 1991 from 21 percent in

In the tiny island state of Bahrain, there were 3,321 marriages and 691 divorces last year, court documents showed.

The drive to reduce mixed marriage is faced with tough obstacles in several Gulf Arab states, where massive war costs and deficit budgets are forcing rulers to ease lav-ish state subsidies for their pampered citizens.

Fewer men are able to afford lavish and expensive wedding receptions.

Women also have complaints. Some say they are faced with infidelity and neglect. "He used to go out every night with his friends and return home drunk," said 35-Ahmed, a mother of three. "In addition, he used to forget all about us and travel abroad for months with friends..." (Reuter)



A boy tries to sell a paper Santa Claus to a Moslem woman riding a bus at a busy intersection in downtown Cairo Monday.

### **Father Christmas comes to Egypt** and not all are pleased

O five-year-old Alia Fathy. Santa Claus is a bad man. "He kidnaps children ... and then plays with them," she said, clutching a small doll of the paunchy, red-dressed man known for Pather Christmas. She could not say where she got that idea, but said she had never heard that Baba

Noel gives presents to children. Alia's older sister, Hayam, a florist in her 20s, plans no celebrations for Christmas. "I am a Moslem, and Christmas is not my feast," said Hayam, who wore a veil in line with Islam's call for modesty. But in Egypt - a country of nearly 50 million Moslems and 10 million Coptic Christians - more and more fuss is being made over Christmas and New Year's Day,

despite criticism from strict

Moslems that the holidays are a ... On New Year's Eve, the wealthy Vestern intrusion. can celebrate at a night club, pay-Christmas was introduced to ing nearly Eg£700 (\$200) per per-Western intrusion. many Egyptisus through Western son for a show and dinner includ-

owner Adel el-Masry said most of his Christmas customers were from "the class which travels to Europe and whose children study at foreign schools." Affluent parents -Moslems and Copts - buy expensive gifts for their children and take them to listen to Christmas carols sung in the lobbies of five-star hotels - some decorated to look like a snow-swept forest.

Christmas trees are now sold in many Cairo neighborhoods, ranging in price from 50 Egyptian pounds (\$15) for the home-grown variety to Eg£600 (\$180) for imported pines. Police, politicians and drugs

The money spent on Christmas and New Year's Eve offend many Egyptians - a Eg£700 dinner is about double a teacher's monthly salary. And some Moslem religious leaders also have warned Egyptians against imported festivities like the Western Christmas on December 25. Egypt's Copts mark their

Christmas on January 7. Although Islam recognizes Jesus as a prophet, his birth is not a Moslem holiday, and January 1 as New Year's Day does not mesh with the Islamic calendar.

But like everywhere else, Christmas and New Year mean big . business in Egypt, Even street peddlers selling packs of tissues shift and the futility of the army's camto selling paper Santas and tree decorations. El-Masry, the toythe weeks before Christmas were double what he made in several months. He has introduced homedelivered toys to Cairo, with Santa as the messenger. "Sometimes parents ask us, so that Baba Noel can tell their child something like 'stop

Eg£10 pounds (\$3) for delivery. El-Masry said he is a Moslem but makes an occasion of Christmas at his home. "Why shouldn't a Moslem make his children happy at the end of the year?" he said

sucking your thumb, or study well

at school." The shop charges

### Kurdish leader predicts peace overtures in 1997

KURDISH leader waging a guerrilla war against the Turkish government predicts that 1997 may bring steps toward a settlement of the 12-yearold conflict, a newspaper reported

yesterday.
Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdish Workers' Party, said, however, that his force of 15,000 is prepared to continue fighting if there are no efforts to settle the Turkish-Kurdish conflict in which more than 21,000 people had been killed. "There are some signs that the Turks' current desire to find a solution is shaping up more than before," Ocalan told the leftist Beirut newspaper As-Safir.

The leader of the group, which is known by its Kurdish initials PKK, cited recent statements by Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan that terrorism in Turkey must end in 1997. "I don't think he meant eliminating us, but I think he is referring to political solutions," said Ocalan.

Erbakan heads secular Turkey's first Islamic-oriented government. He has not altered his predecessors' hard-line policy regarding the Kurdish bid for autonomy in Turkey's southeast.

Ocalan did not fully explain his optimism but said in the interview that Turkey's economic problems paign against the PKK may force a policy change in Ankara.

pathy for his cause, Ocalan also said that Israel was supporting Turkey in its anti-Kurdish campaign. He said the rise of the current Islamic-led government in Ankara indicated a defeat of the policy against the Kurds. "We are the reason behind Erbakan's rise in the arena and his progress," the Marxist leader said. "By that we dealt Israel a blow." The newspaper did not say where the interview was conducted.

Ocalan is believed to be based in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon, or in neighboring Syria. (AP)

#### year-old Sandi divorcee Wanisa day with reports of the arrest of a

involving police, politicians, and mobsters widened yesterdrug courier who allegedly was delivering laundered money to police.Istanbul airport authorities earlier this week arrested, on drug charges, a 22-year-old woman who No shooting at the

wedding, please TUWAIT'S Civil Aviation Authority says airplanes have had to change course to avoid being hit by gonfire from wedding celebrations held near the

Monday. The head of the authority, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak al-Ahmed al-Sabah, has asked the Interior Ministry to ban the celebrations,

airport, a newspaper reported

the Al-Watan newspaper said. Shooting into the air is a traditional way for Beduin men to express joy, and the men-only wedding celebrations are usually held in tents crected for the occa-

month, a Kuwait Airways flight and plane from an American carrier he did not name had to change course to avoid gunfire from a wedding party south of the airport. He said similar incidents had taken place before, and warned that this "could lead to disasters."

Possession of weapons is illegal in Kuwait, and the government has been cracking down on trigger-happy citizens.

However, many Kirwaitis have refused to hand in the guns acquired during the 1991 Iraqi occupation, saying they would need the weapons for self-protection if Saddam Hossein invaded

Sheikh Jaber said that late last again.

#### was carrying a suitcase stuffed with 28 billion Turkish lira (\$2.6 million) in foreign currency, the daily Hurriyet reported. The woman, identified as Dilek

Ornek, allegedly told authorities that she was a courier for a police officer, Ayhan Akca, bodyguard of the deputy head of the police's special forces department.

Reports said Omek, holding Dutch and Turkish passports, had traveled to Turkey 58 times in the last year carrying money to be laundered. Police, earlier this week, also

briefly detained Akca but let him go for lack of evidence, Hurriyet said. In November, Sedat Bucak, a legislator from a roling party was huri in a crash which killed a fugitive terrorist and a police chief. The fugitive was Abdullah Catli, who once led the Gray Wolves, a rightwing terrorist group, and who had been serving time in Switzerland for drug smuggling when he escaped in 1990.

Former Interior Minister Mehmet Agar, an ex-police chief himself, allegedly authorized false identification and an arms permit for Catli. Then it emerged that three body-guards of lawmakers were implicated in the June murder of a casi-

Hurriyet said yesterday that Akca, the police officer who allegedly received the drug money, also had links to Catli.

### Algiers car bomb killed eight, newspapers say

CAR bomb in Algiers on Monday killed eight people, Algerian newspapers reported yesterday, and one said the blast made a mockery of government claims to have gained the upper hand in its battle against Moslem rebels.

Security forces had put the toll at three dead and up to 20 wounded. but the Arab-language daily Al Khabar, quoting hospital sources, said "the number of dead reached eight and scores of people were seriously wounded." The leading French-language newspaper El Watan, well informed on security matters, quoted a police officer at the scene as saying that eight people died and many were wounded. Al Khabar, El Watan and other newspapers blamed the blast on

Moslem guerrillas but there has been no claim of responsibility. More than 1,400 civilians have died in bomb attacks by fundamentalist Moslem rebels in the past two years, according to a government human rights body. About 60,000 people have died in Algeria since 1992, when the authorities canceled a general election which radical Islamists were poised to win. Monday's bomb ripped through the commercial Larbi Ben Mehidi Street, destroying a cafe and badly damaging a pizzeria and a betting office, witnesses said.

Newspapers said the explosion hit at lanch hour when the street was bustling with workers, street vendors and thousands of passersby. The area is known for small fast-food restaurants and shops.

Liberté newspaper, reporting that the car used in the blast was stolen in the Moslem guerrillas' Encalyptus district, south of Algiers, said the explosion made a mockery of authorities' claims of a crushing victory over the rebels.

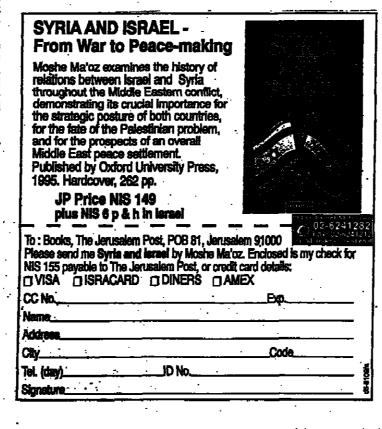
El Watan, ridiculing the government over the security situation, wrote that "[Prime Minister] Ahmed Onyahia walked in Tunis's streets and stated 'We triumphed over texrorism." Ouyahia was quoted on Sunday at the end of his visit to neighboring Tunisia as saying that the government had defeated the guerillas and "terrorism is living its latest convulsive moment."

The Armed Islamic Group, the most ruthless of Algeria's fundamentalist movements, claimed responsibility.

### Spain to reactivate embassy in Iraq

PAIN will send a diplomat to Baghdad in the next few weeks to reactivate its embassy in Iraq, authorities said yesterday. The chargé d'affaires, who has yet to be named, will handle diplomatic and business relations with Iraq for the embassy, which has been inactive - but not closed - since the Gulf war in 1991, Foreign Ministry spokesman Inocencio Arias said. Arias said there were no immediate plans to send an ambassador

Spain supported the US-led coalition against Iraq in the Gulf War, allowing US forces to use Spanish bases as stopovers during the war.



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### Reciprocity Now

THE Hebron agreement seems to be finally reaching its conclusion. The details of the security arrangements are yet to be revealed, but in any case the endgame does not concern them for its essence is to sew together commitments toward the future that seek to fill the vacuum of trust between the parties.

Due to this lack of trust, the Palestinians have adamantly refused to create any window that would allow Israeli forces back into H-1, the 85 percent of Hebron that would come under Palestinian control. The Palestinians, however, need not rely on trust alone to ensure that Israel stays out, given the heavy political price Israel would pay for any such incursion, except under the most limited and extreme circumstances.

Whatever was agreed upon, it was and remains extremely unlikely that Israel would unilaterally enter any of the Area A cities under Palestinian control. The expected scenario, rather, is what happened after the terrorist attack near Beit El. In that case, Israeli and Palestinian forces jointly inspected the burnt getaway car in Ramallah, and the security forces of both sides remained in close contact.

For Israel, on the other hand, there is no getting around trusting the Palestinians. Even if Netanyahu has succeeded in improving the security arrangements in the Hebron agreement, no security arrangements can substitute for the Palestinian Authority's determination to prevent conflict in this most tense of cities.

Hebron is one of the centers of Hamas activity in the Palestinian areas. It is also hard to believe that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat himself sees the Jewish presence in Hebron as permanent. Yet there is no ignoring the fact that Arafat will have to actively prevent attacks on Hebron's Jews if the agreement as a whole is to survive.

The Palestinians, for their part, are more conredeployments provided for in the Oslo Accords. According to Oslo, the first redeployment was to have taken place this September, and the following two by September, 1997.

By the end of the last redeployment, Oslo dictates that Israel will have withdrawn from all but Israeli settlements and "specified military locations." There is a wide gap between Israeli and Palestinian interpretations of this phase, but even the narrowest reading would require Israel to withdraw from all of Oslo's Area B - the patchwork area encompassing most of the Palestinian villages outside of the seven cities within Area A. These villages cover about 27

percent of the total territory outside the Green Line, but include about 68 percent of the Palestinian population. Gaining control over this area would be a great prize for Arafat, and one that gives him a strong incentive to ensure that Oslo continues to be implemented.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Arafat is seeking specific deadlines from Israel regarding further redeployments. This commitment is expected to be included in an exchange of side letters, either between the sides or with the United States.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reportedly told Palestinian No. 2 Abu Mazen that the first further redeployment would be within "a few weeks," and that a date would be agreed upon with Arafat. Netanyahu also reportedly gave up his demand that in exchange, the Palestinians would provide a date for fulfilling their outstanding requirements under the agree-

If this is true, it is mystifying. Why would the Netanyahu government, which has raised "reciprocity" as the guiding light of its implementa-tion of the Oslo Accords, throw away its principal card in achieving Palestinian compliance? It possible to come up with a long list of Palestinian (and Israeli) violations of the Oslo. Of these, there are two items of unfinished business on the Palestinian side that stand out among all the rest: Extradition and the commitment to disarm terrorist militias. The question of extradition (called "transfer" in Oslo) is important, but it if the Palestinians are serious about bringing terrorists to justice this will cease to be a major issue.

The harder and most important nut to crack is the disarming of militias.

This is specifically required by Oslo, and it gets to the heart of preventing terrorist attacks like the recent one at Beit El. It also is the key cerned about locking Israel into the three further to removing Israeli suspicions that Arafat is deliberately keeping a surrogate terrorist option alive in order to pressure Israel.

No one is claiming that it is politically or militarily trivial for Arafat to forcibly shut down the terrorist gangs in areas under his control. But it is the least Arafat can do in exchange for Israel giving up most of its territorial cards before permanent status talks have even begun.

There is no better time than now to nail down Palestinian commitments to crack down on the terrorist groups that threaten Israeli security and Palestinian interests alike. There is also no better time for Netanyahu to put into practice the principle of reciprocity that he has so forcefully put forth.

he would not have said this.

same mistakes

cence in his honor.

Tel Aviv.

Rabbi

maxim: "Those nations that do not

study the mistakes made in world

history are fated to repeat these

KOPUL ROSEN

Sir, - Monday March 17 is

yahrzeit. We, his children, would

like to invite all Old Carmelis and

friends to an evening of reminis-

The event will be held at Yakar,

In order to ensure the success of

the evening, would you please

fax or write us with the names

and addresses of any Old

Carmelis or friends who you

think would be interested in join-

DAVID and ANGELA ROSEN

AN ISRAELI

T-SHIRT

Sir. - On my last visit to Israel.

I brought home gifts for my

friends. On Thanksgiving day,

one of the recipients, a Catholic

Polish teacher, who supplements

her income working in an Italian

restaurant, came to offer her holi-

She proudly displayed her

Israeli T-shirt with the picture of

Jerusalem and told me that since

she was wearing the shirt, her tips

West Orange, New Jersey.

SAM TENNENBAUM

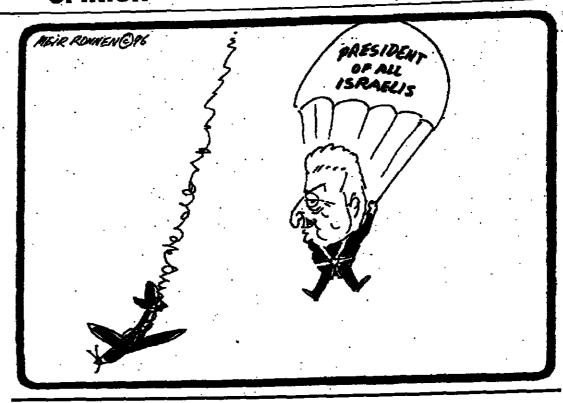
JEREMY, MICHAEL,

10 Halamed Hei, Katamon,

Jerusalem (Yakar is his Hebrew

Kopul Rosen's 35th

RICHARD LEVINS



## Trojan horse in Hebron

EXT week will see the signing of a peace treaty. The parties formally burying the hatchet are the Guatemalan government and its armed revolutionary underground. Israel will be sending a special emissary, in lieu of President Weizman, who was offi-cially invited but couldn't attend.

The invitation to Weizman expressed Guatemala's gratitude to Israel for having helped "tie the first knot" in negotiations with the rebels. The Guatemalans, impressed by the Oslo accords, in 1993 asked Israel to act as "matchmaker" and appeal for Norwegian arbitration in Guatemala. This modest beginning eventually pro-

duced a peace agreement. Would that things here were progressing so smoothly with the

Palestinians. Talk of Oslo dominated yesterday's Netanyahu-Arafat summit at the Erez checkpoint. Yet the more US envoy Dennis Ross was praised for his Hebron breakthrough, the harder it became to repress the thought that the accords are very far from what they ought to be. They have been dogged by crises and obstacles. When one

problem is solved, a new one arises, accompanied by threats of a renewed intifada. After details of the impending agreement between Arafat and Netanyahu leaked out, it became clear that all the verbiage about hot pursuit and opening up Hebron's Shuhadeh street had been just a cover for Egyptian maneuvering for "partner" status in an eventual agree-

Arafat complained about the brevity of the meetings between MOSHE ZAK

the Israeli and Palestinian teams, but he kept quiet about the nightly dispatching of all the meetings' protocols to Egypt, enabling Egypt to hold the key to an agreement in its hand, as it were, giving or withholding consent depending on its own status in the matter.

ON THE eve of Ross's arrival in the region this week the US, having earlier expressed the undesir-

#### Egyptian meddling in the talks could be the undoing of the accord

ability of including additional arbitrators in the effort to improve Netanyahu-Arafat relations, made it clear that Ross would just be hopping over from Jerusalem to Gaza, and not visiting other capi-tals. In response, Mubarak and Arafat accused Ross of bias toward Israel, Arafat even declaring his preference for Egyptian or European mediation.

The insult was clear. Yet after meeting with Arafat in Gaza, Ross informed Netanyahu that he would be going on to Cairo to fill Mubarak in on the talks.

It was after that trip that we learned of the breakthrough toward a Hebron agreement. All the "difficult" problems that had so engrossed the media seemed to have vanished. Egypt got a foothold in Hebron, and - presto!

the negotiations unthawed.
What the Americans promised Egypt in exchange for removing its veto on an Arafat agreement with Netanyahu is still unknown. But there are a number of wortisome signs.

Spokesmen for the Palestinian negotiating team have announced that the agreement will be signed in Cairo; other Palestinian spokesmen promise that Egypt will be a partner in the signing of a US letter of assurance on continued redeployment - in other

words, Israeli withdrawals. Israel's consent to including Egypt in the negotiations would only burden its relations with the European Union, which also demands a role. Even more dangerous, every crisis with the Palestimans would automatically turn into a crisis with Egypt (even though the peace treaty with Egypt determines that it stands independent of other agreements). Arafat understood that over-

stubbornness on his part regarding the technicalities of the Hebron redeployment could result in a loss of US financial aid, which is why he got Egypt's consent to yesterday's meeting with Netanyahu.

But this isn't the end of it. He could, at the last minute, turn around and try to squeeze out another concession for Egypt.

Israel must see to it that Ross's breakthrough does not become an Egyptian "break-in" - in other words, permanent interference in Israeli-Palestinian relations The accord must be reached at Erez, not in Cairo.

The writer, a veteran journalist,

comments on current affairs.

### An old poison loses potency

#### the Evangelical Lutheran Church, an andience of Lutheran leaders listened intently to a challenge by an Orthodox rabbi: how to move Palestinians to be like the situation beyond the previous year's rejec-tion of Luther's antisemitic diain Andorra or Puerto Rico. If he knew the history of these places, tribes into an area of greater We should heed that famous

Lutheran journal.

Yet just a few days earlier, at the Southern Baptist Conversion in New Orleans, a resolution was passed affirming Baptist resolve to press forward with efforts to convert the Jews.

These two nearly-coinciding events sum up the current state of Christian-Jewish relations. On the one hand, a growing body of Christian thinkers have begun to question the fundamental concepts that translate into proselytizing. At the same time enormous sums of money, time and energy, are still being allocated to conversion efforts.

and sadly oblivious to the good

Boiled down to its purest state, the old poison is called supersessionism, or the theology of displacement. Jews are pained and perplexed by a theory which suggests that Christianity replaced Judaism, that Christians are the new Israel, and the Christian scriptures contain the new covenant, replacing the old.

In classic Christian teachings the practice of Judaism does not afford salvation, nor is there a role for Jews in God's unfolding Divine game-plan. To the minds of many contemporary lay Christians that lesson is repulsive. The challenge to Christian thinkers lies in the fact that Christianity is sorrowfully saturated with supersessionism.

Numerous scholars like Shemaryahu Talmon and Augustin Cardinal Bea have simply given up. They confine the supersessionism question to eschatology, or. Let's leave the issue for the Messiah to resolve. Until then the focus ought to be on more practical matters like

The good news is that many oth-

have no longer been replaced by a "new" Testament. Rather, both populations coexist side by side, both harmoniously attempting to bring God's dream world a little closer to reality.

How should Jews respond to the above? First, in so far as missionaries are concerned this recent immigrant sees no reason why proselytizing should not be a crime punishable by deportation.

Every democracy places limits on the right to freedom of speech; and in the light of 17 centuries of malevolent Christian-Jewish relations, exemplified by frustrated attempts at proselytizing and the consequences thereof, the contemporary Jewish democracy called Israel would be well within its rights to outlaw proselytizing.

Second, as regards the good news, whether single covenant or double, I say a blessing on both their heads!

Minimally, Jews should respond with patience and serious appreciation of the evolution that is occurring. Seventeen centuries of abuse has also, understandably, made us quite impatient. But our impatience is often more impedi-

ment than encouragement. So too our cynicism. The fact of the matter is that many Christians believe we Jews are fine just as we are. Yes, the changes are real, and the new attitudes are trickling

down - or, perhaps better, percolating up. Finally, we should make an effort to know our Christian neighbors. If they are still in the theo-

logical dark ages, busy handing out pamphlets to Jews, appropriate responses ought to be considered. But if they're an courant with contemporary trends in Christian thought a hearty and sincere Merry Christmas is certainly in order.

The writer, an Orthodox rabbi,

### POSTSCRIPT

THE ETERNAL Christmas question: what to get the person who has everything? If an Israeli company has its way, the answer is sand.

"Holy Steps" may be a simple mmick, but it could become one of the best bargains for flummoxed Christmas shoppers in years to

is a veteran of positive Christian-Jewish encounters. marketing the inner soles for \$15,

### Less 1s more

JACOB CHINITZ

NE thing that has emerged from the brouhaha caused by President Weizman's outburst about gays is that you don't have to be religious to have a sexual moral code.

Some people have asked: Is a secular sexual morality possible? My answer is there had better be. or there will be no sexual morality at all.

For the theological-religious base for such a morality will satisfy only a relatively small number of fundamentalists and traditionalists who can counterpose their continence and self-control to the pervasive sexual ambience of our culture. A 100 years of philosophy, art, movies and televi-sion have challenged us to achieve not sexual sanity, but a maximum of carnal satisfaction.

It is significant that today the only supporters of restraint appear to be religionists, usually of the fundamentalist variety. This places the right-wing position under a tremendous handi-

cap.

For while there is a degree of public consensus on health matters, for example, and on social phenomena like family violence and the exploitation of children, there is no consensus on God, Bible or religion.
It is futile to base a case against

the distribution of condoms in schools, for instance, on God. because the opposition may simply not accept God, or your version of His will, or your interpretation of Scripture.

The great paradox in the situation is that the defense of the religious position must be made from a secular standpoint.

It was ever so. When Maimonides and other Jewish philosophers defended Judaism. the Torah and the commandments, they didn't argue that the will of God was on their side. That would have been then, and still is today, an enormous beg-ging of the question.

#### A sensible sexual code for today's society can only be a 'secular' one

They had to rationalize the mitzvot, to show their utility and debate against a background of shared values, accepted axioms and self-evident propositions that their opponents couldn't dismiss as being one-sided and outside the consensus.

IT IS a shame that the AIDS controversy has polarized the public into two extreme groups.

One comprises victims and their friends, who talk only about cure, research, treatment and untested but possibly effective drugs, with no sense of responsibility about sexual behavior - as if the right to sex were more important than life itself.

And in this polarization the other group is little better. It preaches sin and punishment. biblical abomination, and the immorality of homosexuality, indeed of all sex outside mar-

Such attitudes make it difficult to develop sensible sexual codes of behavior, which can never reach the perfection envisioned in the religious texts.

The association of masturbation and the "destruction of the seed" with murder, the admonitions against looking at, listening to or touching women lead either to ridicule or the sincere recognition that the original standards are impossible to realize.

So much for the Jewish SOUTCES.

In Christianity, we have, for example, Jimmy Carter's famous "lusting in the heart" statement, with its implication that mental adultery is as bad as physical.

Both positions, extreme religious and extreme secular, make a sensible secular sexual code impossible.

I would suggest that a less than perfect consistency, less imagination of moral perfection in this area of human conduct - what some would cynically call pragmatism, convenience and halfmeasures - are not only permissible, but absolutely essential in constructing any moral code,

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ra-.

£ 3.

sexual or other. The religious will have to give up the idea that lust is generally sinful; the secular the idea that all pleasure is legitimate.

We need to meet in the middle moderate area where sexual need and desire are considered normal and proper, but where rules are. necessary; not because God says so, but because sensible utilitarianism demands rules - in the interests of preventing unwanted

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SCHOOL SUBJECTS

them."

tory of a sort is taught, and world

history is brought in occasionally

as a background to Jewish history.

feel that the ordinary people do

not need to know anything in

these fields, that "whatever little

they need to know, we will tell

Some of our non-religious lead-

ers are no better. Netanyahu said

he wants the settlement with the

WRITING ON

THE WALL

pages warns of the coming cata-

strophe if Israel fulfills the Oslo

Arafat has broken the accords by

not abrogating the Palestine Covenant calling for the destruction

of Israel, by killing Israeli soldiers in

an unprovoked attack, not handing

over killers and creating safe bavens

for terrorists, just to mention a few

instances, thus making a mockery of

I hope and pray that Prime

LLOYD MORRISON

Minister Netanyahu will not

become yet another Peres with his

of time, resources, or because they

have to get permission from this

one or that one.... I am afraid to say

that, had they or any immediate

member of their family experienced

excruciating pain, they would

resolve to find something to help-

their patients and cut through any

obstacle, bureaucratic or otherwise.

that would stand in their way. And

that is what they should do for their

patients today, not tomorrow. Have

the courage to get outside help;

your patients would look upon it as

the accords and invalidating them

according to international law.

"New Middle East" dreams.

Accords to the letter.

Sir. ~ Letter after letter in your

The leaders in these movements

#### Sir, - Susan Bellos hit the nail on the head in her article on education of November 24. She said that the most important subjects our pupils should study are world history and literature. And it is just these subjects that are downplayed or firmly rejected in many of our schools. In the haredi schools, these subjects are completely out-

#### religious schools, only Jewish his-NAIVE

lawed, and in many of the other

Sir. - Shimon Peres's reaction to the Beit El murders is rather naive. According to him the Palestinian Authority should "do everything it can to find and catch the terrorists and either try them or turn them

over to us.' The "either - or" is ridiculous. The PA never turned over murderers to Israel and has already declared that it will not do so this time either. As to the trial (if the terrorists are really caught), it is completely meaningless, since they will be released from jail after a few weeks and will most probably join the PA police, as happened in many other similar cases.

DR. JACOB ROSIN

Netanya.

### DEALING WITH PAIN

Sir. - Your editorial of December 9 touched the agonizing subject of pain. It is all very well to put the rationale of not dealing with pain on educating the doctors, the patients and the authorities. All these reasons take time and, meanwhile, the patients and their families suffer. If the doctors really want to help, the first thing they should do is to listen carefully to what their patients have to say. Secondly, they should be prepared to accept help from patients who have had to cope with pain in similar situations and who are now

willing to help others. I know that there are doctors who excuse themselves, because of lack Jerusalem.

Mayor, Shmuel Meir, has become

another in the list of Israeli citi-

strength and not as weakness. HAYA GRAUS CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE Sir, - Jerusalem's Deputy

employ of the United Nations. Any driver and the company

employing the driver should be and a widow.

responsible in the death of Shumel Meir, who has left eight children

day greetings.

### DAVID J. LEVY

London, Ontario, convention of the Eastern Synod of their exegesis.

Christian-Jewish rapprochement. The presentation, which the bishop called "a historic event," later appeared in the regional

The Jewish community remains painfully aware of the bad news,

building world community.

ers have not given up. As a conse-

tion classical christology, ecclesiology, or biblical passages and

Thus as prominent a thinker as Dr. John T. Pawlikowski has written that "the enrichment and insight I have received from living contact with Jews and Judaism has given me new religious meaning and... forced upon me a profound reevaluation of traditional claims of Christian superiority

and universality." Dr. R. Kendall Soulen, of Washington D.C.'s Wesley Theological Seminary, recently added: "Christians should acknowledge that God's history with Istae! and the nations is the permanent

### Peace on earth and goodwill to all men? **Between Christians** and Jews, at least,

and enduring medium of God's work as the Consummator of human creation....'

it can come about

IN THE emerging broad body of contemporary Christian thought some scholars are referred to as single-Covenant thinkers (there is only one Covenant, and Christianity is an extension of it). Others are referred to as dual-Covenant thinkers, with Christianity representing a second covenant, one with a new population. In each case, God is viewed as maintaining an ongoing and legitimate relationship with Jews, as expressed through the original Covenant.

Christianity no longer supersedes Judaism, Jews have no longer been replaced by Christians, and Jewish scriptures

> under the assumption that Christians (not to mention lews) who can't be here in person would still like the feel of Jerusalem underfoot. The upper surface of the soles are inscribed with a stylized skyline of the capital with the words "Blessed is the one



De Mayo: Everone can see their own Jesus

### Israeli architect wins bid to erect Jesus in Sicily

**AMY KLEIN** 

ESUS is coming in the year 2000, and guess what? A Jew J is bringing him. The Jew is Israeli architect David de Mayo, and his Jesus is a 51-meter statue that he is building in Sicily for the next millennium.

De Mayo's bid was part of a year-long competition for the project. His design was chosen from eight world-renowned architects, including Frank Gehry, the Austrian Hans Hollein, Dutch Van Berkel and Italian Thomasso

The statue is the vision of Sicilian Father Luigi Far Lauto, who has run a village for antistic children for the past 30 years. It is part of his plan for an "open city" which will include universities, libraries, and facilities to integrate autistic people in a community, to give them, in Far Lauto's words, the honor they deserve in our

world.' Far Lauto hosts international conferences on autism and helps children and the professionals who treat them from all over the world. He hopes that the statue, which will be the tallest Jesus in the world, will attract one million out of the eight million tourists expected in Rome during the year

Two meters taller than the Statue of Liberty, the Jesus complex will also allow visitors to go to the top and see the view from the Toreina mountaintop. But, instead of 99

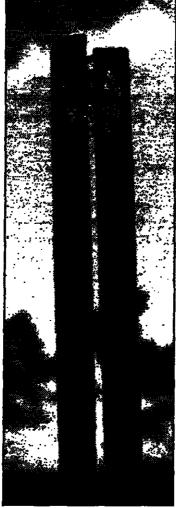
steps, there will be elevators from inside the base, which will be a Catholic church from which the statue stems. Below the church. extending 20 meters underground, will be a pantheon - a meeting place for all religions.

And that's not all: In addition to Jesus, and the church and pantheon, the statue will serve as a satellite. From a hidden dish on top of the structure, a dish will send out programs of a religious

"The statue will be like a great big antenna that will broadcast to the world the positive in it, to give different view of the world," says Far Lauto. "That is the way the messiah teaches us. The statue is the message.

How does the Jewish designer of this gargantuan message feel about bringing Jesus to millions? "It's a bit strange," de Mayo concedes, "but my job as an architect is to create aesthetic, functional answers according to the needs of

De Mayo's Jesus - unlike other entries - is more symbolic looking than literal. The church/lesus stands at 51 meters according to the father's request, in order to represent "Jesus' partnership - 51 percent to man's 49." Three tall columns symbolize the Trinity; they will be made from everlasting titanium to represent the eternity of Jesus. At the top of the pillars will be a 10 meter circumference see-through orb - Jesus' head, from there will be the observation point, so that, as de Mayo



De Mayo's statue will be the tallest Jesus in the world.

explained to the judges panel, "people can see the world through Jesus' eyes."

"I turned [the observation deck] towards Jerusalem," de Mayo says of his own ideological additions to the design. "Whoever looks at it is looking at the crossroads for all the religions."

De Mayo does not believe in Jesus, but he thinks that in his abstract complex "everyone can see their own Jesus."

De Mayo is most well known here for designing the Habimah Theater, and most recently Tel

Aviv's municipality buildings.

De Mayo was born in Spain in 1932, and moved to Israel in 1948. He left to study architecture in Sweden, and has designed projects around the world, including the interiors of the Hilton hotels in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and

Antigua in the Caribbean. This is the first time an Israeli architect has won an international competition, de Mayo says. It is also probably the last thing the world expected: A Jew resurrecting Jesus.

# Bethlehem: 'Tis the season...

any Israeli tour guides tell a popular story to explain how tourism to Bethlehem has changed since it came under the control of the Palestinian Authority

A Catholic priest, leading a large group of Christian pilgrims on a tour of Bethlehem's many holy sites, was stopped at the entrance to the Church of the Nativity by a Palestinian policewoman who asked him for his tour guide's license. The priest, somewhat indig-nantly, pointed to his Roman collar, and asked, "Isn't this enough?"

The policewoman, the story goes, shook her head. "In the Vatican, that might be enough," she explained. "Here, we want to see a license! Your group can go in. You stay out-

The guides point to such stories as symbolic of the strange mix of heavy-handedness and efficiency which has come to the city since last December, when Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, in an infamous speech to thousands of worshipers in Manger Square, welcomed them to the "birthplace of the first Palestinian, Jesus Christ."

In addition to stringently enforced regula-tions requiring that all tour guides have valid licenses before they are allowed to enter any of the sites - something which is almost unheard of in Israel - the guides point to the police's success in getting rid of pushy, obnoxious vendors.

The thing that impresses me the most is how the police have gotten rid of the scam artists and peddlers who used to almost attack tourists as soon as they stepped off their buses," said Robert Brender, who has been leading tours since 1981. "Now, all the vendors are licensed and act very politely so as not to attract the attention of the police."

Brender added that he often thinks back to pre-Intifada Bethlehem, when many Israelis used to shop and eat there on the weekends. "I used to drive there for Friday night dinner," he said. "Those types of visits, unfortunately, went down the drain with the Intifada. And they still haven't come back."

Nir Ophir, who has been leading Austrian and German pilgrims on tours of the city for the last 12 years, said that Israelis will probably not return to Bethlehem as anything YOCH! DREAZEN

other than tourists. "I think they've accepted the fact that Bethlehem is part of a different entity," he explained. Its not going to become another Abu Ghosh."

Many of the guides disagreed, however, as to whether or not the overall Palestinian impact on the city's tourism had been positive. Jerusalem-based tour guide Amnon Aronson said that it has been negative. Tourism is down heavily since they [the Palestinians] took over," he said. "Its sort of sad, because the whole city grew rich on tourism, but now we just take the tourists in on their buses, out to the Church [of the Nativity], and then back on the buses to leave. No one walks around to see or shop in the rest

Mishi Neubach, who has been leading tours of the city since 1970, disagrees. From a tourist's point of view, Bethlehem has become a much nicer place to visit," he said. "A lot of Israelis are stuck in a mindset of fear, believing that was true three years ago [about security in the city] is still true today. They don't realize that most of the changes are for the better. The city is cleaner, safer, and more

ALMOST no Palestinian flags are visible from the main road. "Bethlehem's never really been much of a PLO town," explains my guide, Micha Ashkenazi. "It's a tourist town, which really yearns to be left out of politics

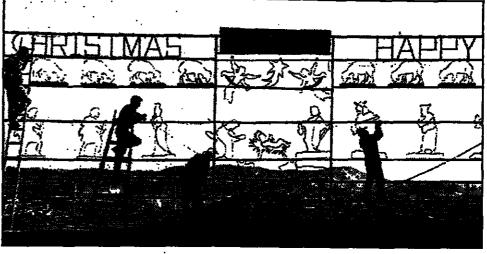
altogether."

"The feeling here is that things will work out politically, so people feel safe investing," said Ashkenazi, a former archeologist who has been a tour guide since 1967. "There's a lot of hope for the future."

The Church of the Nativity is the oldest, continuously-functioning church in the world, originally built in the 4th century A.D. While the church's interior features stunning

the church's interior features stunning mosaics, most tourists flock to the underground cave, accessible from within the church, which tradition says is the birthplace of Christ. The exact spot of his birth is marked by a beautiful, 14-pointed silver star, the stealing of which, Ashkenazi said, led to the Crimean Way. Crimean War.

On the way out of the church, Ashkenazi points to the church and then to a large mosque across the street. The only thing missing is a synagogue," Ashkenazi jokes.
"Then again, the only thing Jewish here is



Bethlehem prepares for its big day. The city yearns to be left out of politics altogether

### Christian tourist influx expected

"Lord of History, dispose our spirits to cele-brate with faith the Great Jubilee of 2000, so that it might be a year of grace and mercy," declared Pope John Paul II last month, as he formally launched a three-year program within the Roman Catholic Church, to prepare for the celebrations of the 2000th birthday of Jesus. This, along with the simultaneous release, in Vatican City, of 450,000 copies of a stamp series entitled: "Toward the Holy Year," could only have lit up the smiles on the faces of Israel's tourist industry. Tourist operators here aim to make a fortune from the 2000 celebrations, to which the Vatican alone is expected to entice about 15 million of the 35 million Christian tourists expected to visit Israel that year.

However, in the lead-up to the celebrations, for which the Israeli tourist industry is preparing fastidiously, international Christian groups and Palestinian Christians are appalled by the recent rejection by the Supreme Court of a petition aiming to block the construction of Har Homa, a neighborhood of some 6,500 units, and which, due to its proximity to this is Bethlehem, will allow for the growth of an 2000.

alternative tourist center for the 2000 celebra-

"Israel's development of the Har Homa complex will effectively co-opt Bethlehem's tourist economy," says Jennifer Moorehead, a Jerusalem-based land researcher. Moorehead claims that Israeli planners are "scrambling to capitalize on 'Bethlehem 2000,'" by developing luxury hotels, souvenir shops, and craft industries in Har Homa. Currently, there are around 300 hotel rooms in Bethlehem, but this is expected to rise 10-fold by the year 2000.

Daniel J. Chalfen

# Coping with transition

To prepare my young children for an new experience or transition, such as going on vacation, starting preschool, the birth of a sibling or staying with Grandma for the weekend without us. I make small, stapled paper books that explain and illustrate what is about to happen.

You don't have to be an artist or a writer to make "transition books" for your children. I write one or two sentences per page and illustrate with photographs or pictures cut out from magazines (art is not my srength!). When I feel ambinous; I cover them with clear contact paper. The books allow my children to have some control over the experience, to know what to expect and to anticipate the sequence in which new things will happen.

in Ilana's Trip Book, written before my then two-year-old daughter's first cross-country vacation (we were still living in the US), I wrote: "... California is far away. We live in a place called New York. Grandma lives in a place called Long Island. It's far, so we drive there in the car. California is even farther. So we'll fly there in an airplane. Way up in the sky. Like the birds... In California, we'll visit Uncle Leon and Aunt Ellen and cousin Tami. We'll stay in their house and go

#### PARENTING **RUTH MASON**

swimming in their pool."

I make sure to stress the positive aspects of what is about to happen, but also acknowledge difficult feelings they might have: "We'll miss our friends in New York. But we'll see them when we come back from our vacation."

Knowing that routines and familiarity are reassuring to childrea. I include things that will remain the same: "Ilana and Yosef will sleep in cribs in the same room. Mommy and Daddy will sleep in a bed in the next room." My children loved these books.

and asked for them again and again before a change or transition in their lives. But in addition to helping my children, the books helped me. Creating them is fun and knowing I am doing something concrete to help my kids fees secure is very satisfying.

How to do it: 1. Write your "story" on a sheet of paper. Keep the sentences simple and include what is familiar to your child as well as what will be new. Describe what will happen in

2. Fold four (or five or six if you

want a longer book) pieces of stiff paper in half width-wise and staple twice along the fold. Copy your story with colored markers using a sentence or two per page,

leaving room for pictures. 3. Tape appropriate photos or pictures cut out from magazines onto each page, or every other page, or, if you are so inclined, draw pictures to illustrate.

4. Cover with clear contact paper and you have a lasting treasure - something that will help your children now and will act as a memory book later.

5. Remember - the book was written by you about your chil-

They are sure to love it.

CORRECTION

Due to an editing error, a passage in last week's Parenting column was incorrect. It should have read: Children establish left-right dominance between the ages of three and five years, and complete body awareness between five and seven

### Notes to strike the right chord LLNESS PREVENTED Israel

Philharmonic Orchestra patron and IPO board member Lola Beer-Ebner from attending the opening concert of the IPO's 60th anniversary festivities, sponsored controversial philanthropist Josef Buchman. But Beer-Ebner, who herself is sponsoring tonight's concert, was enormously cheered by the messages of affection penned to her on the elaborate

ly struck an emotional chord. Initiated by World WIZO honorary president Raya Jaglom, the autographed program became an instant collectors' item with signatories including Zubin Mehta, Itzhak Perlman, Roni Milo and Shimon Peres.

souvenir program which reported-

GOVERNMENT ministers last week indulged in a little playful revenge at the expense of Broadcasting Authority directorgeneral Motti Kirschenbaum, who had come to plead against a proposed NIS 50 million cut in the

**GREER FAY CASHMAN** IBA budget. Kirschenbaum was just getting to the main point of his argument when Prime Minister

Bioyamio Netanyahu told him that his time had expired. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, taking his cue from the boss, said "I'm sorry, but it's time for a commercial," and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer chimed in "and now we'll pause for a news

Other government ministers who have frequently been cut off the air in mid-sentence took equal pleasure in giving Kirschenbaum a collective dose of the IBA's own medicine. "It may be difficult for you to listen to what you're always saying to us," admonished Netanyahu as he deferred the discussion to another session.

MANY RIGHT-wing American imigrants are furious with US Ambassador Martin Indyk for what they regard as stepping beyond the bounds of diplomacy. Indyk, who last week appeared with Roni Milo at a peace gathering at the home of sculptress Ilana Goor, made some rather uncomplimentary, albeit off-the-record, remarks about Israel's foot-dragging on the Hebron issue. Several right-wingers were heard to say afterwards that it was inexcusable behavior for any foreign diplomat in his host country, but for a diplomat who is also Jewish to talk that way in Israel is also unforgivable.

IN ADDITION to the fir tree growing in her garden and the one sent with season's greetings by the Foreign Ministry, Naracsy Kroll brought in a tree from her husband's native Austria. Although she is a Cambodian Buddhist, the wife of the Catholic Austrian

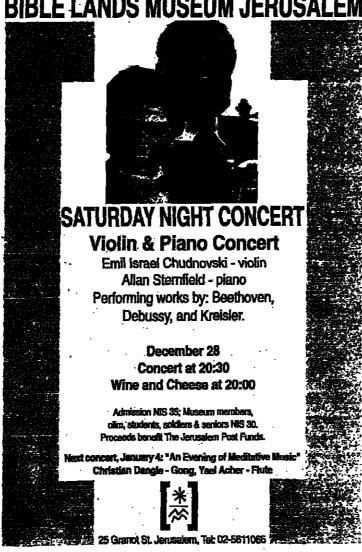
ambassador loves Christmas, and what she loves most about the holiday is decorating the tree.

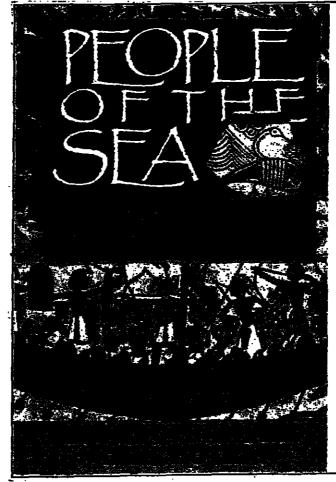
THEY'VE BEEN around long enough not to be fooled by some glib-tongued con merchant, but both Marlon Brando and Jack Nicholson let their libidos cloud their judgment when a smoothtalking rogue persuaded them to invest \$6 million in a health club with nubile, bare-breasted waitresses. Needless to say, the man and the money have disappeared and the two horny old actors have been left with egg on their faces.

FORMER CHILD star Tatum O'Neal keeps trying to kick the habit, but drug and alcohol abuse keep getting the better of her. O'Neal, who has now checked into a \$1,000 a day rehab clinic, has been addicted since she was knee high to a grasshopper, and blames her father, actor Ryan O'Neal, who she says introduced her to narcotics.

### new. Describe what will happen in order, if possible. Use your chil-







Thanks to the work of Trude and Moshe Dothan, the Philistines, one of the most maligned peoples of ancient history, are shown in a completely different light. This first popular account presents a highly developed civilization advanced in art and culture, architecture, and commerce. Handsomely Illustrated with line drawings, photographs and maps, the book interweaves a fascinating history of the Philistines with first person experiences of architectures at work. Hardcover, 276 pp. Macmillan. JP Price: NIS 65 + NIS 5 p&h in Israel.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, December 25, 1996

### Dovrat-Shrem raise additional \$32m. for Polaris Fund

GALIT LIPKIS BECK THE Dovrat Shrem Group has

raised an additional \$32 million in the US, completing the second round of funding of the Polaris II venture-capital fund, the investmanagement

announced yesterday. So far, the fund has raised a total of \$82m. from foreign and Israeli investors. The fund managers are in advanced negotiations with foreign pension funds in an attempt to raise an additional \$30m. Conclusion of the transaction is subject, among others, to reaching an arrangement with the tax authorities whereby the funds will be exempt from tax in Israel. Dovrat Shrem said they expect to reach an agreement in the near

The Dovrat Shrem Group estab-lished the Polaris Fund II about five months ago together with the investment bank Cowen & Co, and the Travelers Group Inc., a financial services holding company. The fund intends to invest in technology intensive companies with a high growth potential, mainly in the areas of communications, software, sophisticated medical equipment, electronics and biotechnology.

The fund recently made its first investment of \$2.5 million in Backweb, a company engaged in the internet field. The investment was made through a private issue of \$13m, together with US investment bank Goldman Sachs and

In addition to Dovrat Shrem, the funds' investors include Claridge Israel, BEA, Arison Investments, Teva, Bank Leumi, Ormat and Delek Investments.

### Bezeq launches " 'Intelligent Network'

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEQ yesterday launched the marketing of "Intelligent Network" (IN) phone services, made possible by the complete digitalization of the country's telecommunications infrastructure and the installation of Telrad's Nortel Service Builder computer systems in all telephone exchanges.

The IN system allows the speedy and exact construction of telecommunications services customized according to users' demands and needs. For example, subscribers will be able to obtain a single private number by which the phone system will route calls to their home, workplace or car phone and find them wherever they are. Another feature, aimed at organizations and companies with offices or facilities throughout a large area, will allow all calls to reach a single number and route them to the most appropriate local branch

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Three Months

# Women attack gov't retreat on tax benefits

WOMEN yesterday attacked the Treasury's plan to reduce tax credits

for married, working women by half a point, bringing their tax burden in line with men's. Led by Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal, who called the decision "an act of injustice," various women's organizations condemned the last minute decision, which the Treasury says will bring an addi-

tional NIS 270m, in revenue. The Israel Women's Network expressed its fury at the decision, and particularly the Treasury's reference to existing "discrimination" in favor of woman. "The original intention of a whole credit point was to compensate families for the economic burden placed on them after the passing of the National Health Insurance Law," said director Lesley Sachs. "Abolishing this half young families in which both partners have to work." Blumenthal accused the Treasury

of picking an easy political target.
"When we are a politically weak grouping, it is easy to take advantage of us," she said. "The nine female MKs can't take on all the others by themselves." Blumenthal said she has already begun to call on as many MKs as possible to fight this proposal. She would not say whether she would as a result of the proposal vote against the budget. "We must fight to undo this evil,"

she said. Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz joined the criticism. "It is impossible to compare this attack on all working women in Israel, with the taxation on cigarettes and gasoline,"

he said. "Women are entitled to a debate on the issue before this nighttime hijacking was imposed on

The Treasury maintains now is the me to bring women's taxes in line with those of their male colleagues. "Given there is no reason for a distinction in the calculation of income to the taxpayer according to sex, it is time to correct this discrimination," said a Finance Ministry statement published Monday night.

The Treasury argues that 62 per-cent of women will not be affected by the change, because they do not receive a high enough wage. Comently, a woman with two children only begins paying tax on the first shekel earned over NIS 3,638. Meanwhile, at the end of two

Budgetary Arrangements bill, the Knesset Finance Committee and the Treasury agreed to a total NIS 7.2 billion cuts in the 1997 budget.

This final total was reached after the Treasury realized it would need to cut this much to get to its desired budget-deficit target of 2.8% of

The original Treasury proposal in July was to cut NIS 4.9b., and this was followed on December 9 by a request for an additional NIS 1.8b. cut, making an NIS 6.7 total.

The various last minute additions and alterations to the proposals were not just to make up for the various sections rejected by the Knesset Finance Committee, such as reductions in child benefit allowances and the levying of doctors fees, but also to raise the extra NIS 500m. needed to reach NIS 7.2b.



A Belarussian specialist finishes a new church bell at a workshop in Minsk. The only company of its kind in Belarus, the workshop is now receiving orders from monasteries and churches destroyed under the Soviet regime.

### Turbowicz: Direct Insurance, Leumi should have separate boards

ANTITRUST Authority director-general Dr. Yoram Turbowicz intends to subject Bank Leumi's prospective purchase of 20 percent of Direct Insurance to a number of conditions, intended to maintain market competition and prevent conflicts of interest, a Ministry if Industry and Trade source said yesterday.

Bank Leurni is in advanced negotiations to purchase Direct Insurance from its parent company. Zur Shamir Holdings, in the framework of Bank

Lenmi's diversification strategy. Direct Insurance markets insurance policies

tion to cut benefits to foreign

workers, in fact, would cost the

construction industry NIS 170

million to NIS 200m., and the cost

to the agriculture sector would be

NIS 80m., deputy Construction

and Housing Minister Meir

Porush and Agriculture Ministry

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GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Following the companies' announcement of the proposed transaction approximately two months ago, Turbowicz launched an inquiry into the implications of the sale, according to sources.

Turbowicz is mainly concerned that Bank Leumi's control of 20% of Israeli insurance leader Migdal, and its purchase of Direct Insurance, the leading company in the direct insurance market, would hinder market competition.

Danny

**Porush attacks Treasury** 

proposals for foreign labor

DAVID HARRIS

The committee, headed by the

Treasury's Tsipi Galyam, this

week proposed a variety of mea-

sures aimed at reducing benefits

and increasing costs for foreign workers and their employers. The

measures will bring some NIS

100m. to government coffers,

according to Galyam, the Treasury's head of Economic

Research and State Revenue

fight the proposals in the cabinet.

ed to solve one problem, but is creating another larger one," he

said. Foreign workers are currently keeping the building industry together, he said.

The recommendations are also

The Galyam committee attempt-

Porush, however, said he will

director-general

Administration.

Kritchman said yesterday.

Migdal controls about 25% of the local insurance sector, while Direct Insurance controls about

5% of the market. Among others, Turbowicz intends to subject the insaction to total separation of Bank Leurni's and Direct Insurance's managements, including a prohibition to employ any director on both boards. Bank Leumi said there is no legal reason for Turbowicz to object to the transaction.

"In our opinion the transaction will go ahead. We don't see any problem," said a Bank Leumi

### Texaco to sell chemical unit for \$600m.

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Texaco Inc. said yesterday it would sell a gasoline additive business to Huntsman Corp. for about \$600 million, the last of a string of sales of chemical businesses.

The unit being sold makes ethers used to help reduce auto exhaust pollutants and is located next to Huntsman facilities at Port Neches, Texas, Texaco said. Huntsman has operated the plant for Texaco since operations began there in August 1994.

MTBE is added to gasoline to help reduce carbon monoxide emissions, making it burn more cleanly, as well as to increase octane. MTBE has been used to reduce smog and attain mandated air quality standards in certain regions of the US under the Clean Air Act of 1990.

"This is the last major step in the sale of Texaco's chemical business and is in keeping with our plans to focus on our core oil and gas business," Texaco Chairman Peter Bijur said in a statement.

### Galyam about this," Rosen said. Gov't to float 17-20 percent of Discount in February

MI Holdings, the state firm in charge of selling government companies, intends to issue 12 percent to 17% of Bank Discount's shares at the end of February, the bank's underwriters

employment of foreigners, he acknowledged there is little

choice at the moment. It is also

wrong that they face difficulties in

attempting to extend their work

permits, with the government

reducing the number available

Meanwhile, Kritchman said,

We will not pay the new tax on

foreign workers in agriculture.

This is destruction of farming and

farmers, an unnecessary expendi-

Finance Ministry spokesman Eli

Yosef would not respond to Porush's and Kritchman's com-

ments, saying the Galyam com-

mittee is only one of four making

recommendations to the minister-

ial committee on foreign workers

led by Labor and Social Affairs

Minister Eli Yishai. "It is up to

Yishai's ministry to consider the

Labor and Social Affairs

spokesman Zvi Rosen quickly

passed the buck back from

whence it came. "I suggest you

speak to Eli Yosef and Tsipi

proposals," said Yosef.

from next year.

ture of NIS 80m."

The government hopes to raise an immediate NIS 100 million to NIS 150m. on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange by issuing options to buy strares at a later date.

the bank's market price. It is not yet clear whether the package of options will include shares, said one of the lead underwriters.

Clal Issuers, IBI, Leader Issues and Eyal Securities, the lead underwriters for the offering, received a detailed, written description of the bank's operations several days ago from Bank Discount. In the meantime, Bank Discount and the under-

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

Russia's Technology and Science Minister Vladimir Fortov once again has invited Industry and Trade Minister Natan

Sharansky to visit Russia. Sharansky postponed his visit to Russia last month following the death of his wife's brother, Col. (res.) Michael Shtiglitz. It now is expected Sharansky will travel to Russia towards the end of January.

Trucks will be allowed to travel door to door between Israel and Jordan from January 1, the Customs and VAT Anthority announced this week. Until now, drivers have been forced to unload their vehicles at the border for a thorough inspection before a second truck from the other side of the border took the goods to their final destination.

This system will operate at the Arava and Jordan River crossing points, which will be open to goods traffic from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the winter and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the summer.

Construction on the Kessem interchange of the Trans-Israel highway has begun, Cross Israel Highway Ltd., said this week. Kessem, which will include Israel's longest bridge at 630 meters, will take two-and-a-half years to construct, before it links trans-Israel Route 6 with the trans-Samaria Route 5 highway and the Rosh Ha'ayin-Jaljulya route 444.

The design of the interchange could allow for the future construction of a rail link with a park and ride facility.

The Israel Flower Board has received the gold medal for its display area at the international flower festival exhibition held

recently at Aalsmeer in the Netherlands. The stand's theme was Jerusalem 3000. The prizewinning display will be on view at the spring 1997 flower show in the Hefer Valley.

David Harris Karmiel has become the first Israeli city to be awarded ISO 9002 status by the Standards Institute, and consequently becomes

the country's first local authority with a chartermark for quality A celebratory ceremony was held in the city today, with Interior Minister Eli Suissa in attendance.

Just under 4,000 new apartments were sold in the private sector in the third quarter, 14 percent fewer than in the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. However, the figure (3,930) was 11% higher than that in the second quarter. These statistics are based on sales in David Harris Israel's 24 largest cities.

Tefahot Israel Mortgage Bank's provident funds have recently invested NIS 45 million in real estate, representing five percent of the bank's total assets. The bank invested in two large properties: an office building in Tel Aviv and the Zion Cables and in Pishon I street. plot in Rishon Lezion.

Minister says Kuwait plans no foreign borrowing: Kuwait, having recently repaid the last installment on \$5.5 billion of foreign loans, does not plan to borrow abroad again, Kuwaii

inance Minister Nasser al-Rodhan said Vesterda Rodhan, who is on an official visit to Syria, said Ruwait had to seek foreign loans after the 1991 Gulf-War, because the country's

reserves were depleted. "We only (borrowed) \$5.5b. and we were able to repay the last installment of \$800m. recently, thus ending our foreign debt," he

"The repayment of the loans reflects the strength of our economy and shows the normal financial conditions which existed before the ugly Iraqi invasion of Kuwait have been

### Teva estimates potential Copaxone sales at \$100m.

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN MS, with 130,000 in the US and

Pharmaceutical Industries' Copaxone, a multiple-sclerosis drug that recently received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration, is expected to generate \$100 million in sales next year, a senior

company source said yesterday. The drug, which is designed to treat people suffering from the relapsing-remitting form of the debilitating central-nervous disease, will be available in the US in early 1997.

Analysts estimate that the international market for MS drugs has the potential to reach between Sbillion and \$4b, adding that Copaxone sales could eventually total between \$200m and \$300m. Some 750,000 people worldwide have about 5,000 in Israel. About 30% of all MS patients have the relapsing-remitting form of the Trading in Teva's Nasdaq-trad-

ed shares jumped \$0.25 to close at \$44.687 yesterday, following the FDA's approval. The drug will be marketed in the US by Teva Marion Partners, a joint effort between Teva and Hoechst Marion Roussel, a sub-

sidiary of Germany's Hoechst AG. The treatment is expected to cost between \$7,000 and \$10,000 a year. The Israeli Health Ministry has not yet said if Copaxone, which was approved here last month, will be included in the basket of subsidized drugs.

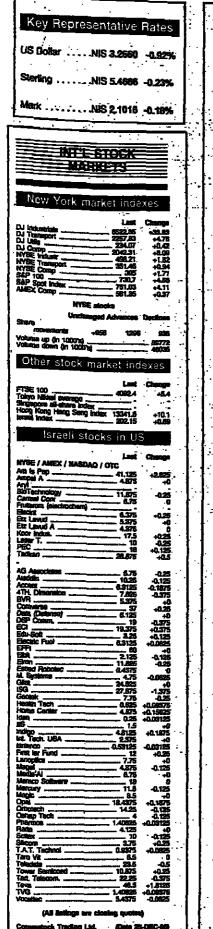
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### CORRECTION

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likely to cause a reduction in the number of building startups. This \$130 US Dollars/NIS 456 foolishness must be rejected," Porush said. This will inevitably have a knock-on effect on apartment prices, he said. While Porush opposes the Want to keep in close touch\ } Don't forget your contact address /phone /fax /e-mail in your message. with your Fax this form: In US & Canada, 212-599-4743 In Israel & the rest of the world: 972-2-531-5622 securities or place your ad directly on our web site at http://www.jpost.co.il till 11 PM?



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Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds-34 Ben Yehuda St., Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826 Fax. 02-244876



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# Shares gain, led by small, medium stocks

**TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET** 

DAN GERSTENFELD 211.03 219,36 +0.46% +0.35%

Two-Sided index

SHARES closed higher yesterday, led by a rise in medium- and small-capitalization stocks, traders

The Two-sided index rose 0.45 percent or 0.94 points, to 211.03 on all-share turnover of NIS 100 million, compared to NIS 98m.

The Maof index gained 0.35% to 219.36.

"The session opened with nice gains of the Maof, but Maof options speculators pushed the market downwards," said Doron Tsur, head of research at Sahar

"Most activity continues to be concentrated in the medium- and small-capitalization stocks," Tsur said. There is a general consensus that the small-cap stocks are very cheap despite the recent

Overall, he said, the market had risen very fast during the last few weeks and investors were now a

"Bonds yields have been falling and new money is coming into the

Maof index stock market. But after the recent rise we are waiting for a correc-

tion. Such a correction has to come before the market can rise any further," said a trader at Bank Traders said the 0.5 percentage point cut in interest rates to 14.7%,

announced by the Bank of Israel after trading on Monday, had no impact on the market as the reduction was within expectations. Teva, the most active share,

gained 1% to 148,395 on volume of NIS 5.4m. On Monday, Teva said the US Food and Drug Administration had granted marketing clearance for Copaxone, Teva's multiple-sclerosis meat-

American Israeli Paper Mills surged 5.25%, which traders attributed to the recent rise in

Other active shares included Koor Industries, which gained 1% on turnover of NIS 4.9m. and Bank Hapoalim, which fell 0.5% on volume of NIS 2.5m.

### London shares set another closing high

**WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP** 

LONDON (Reuter) - London shares rang up their third consecntive record close yesterday, but trading across the rest of Europe was featureless with many dealers finishing early for the Christmas holiday and German markets

aheady shut. London's FTSE 100 index ended a truncated session 5.3 points higher at 4,092.5 after muted activity, just 7.5 points below its record intra-day high reached last Friday and with some traders predicting a January rally. British November trade lightes

broadly in line with market expectations, failed to generate interest. The October global trade deficit was £454 million (NIS 2.5 billion) against market forecasts for £659m. shortfall and

September's revised £1.06b.

In Paris, French shares ended with small gain made in modest volume on the back of gains on Wall Street, having spent most of the morning in the minus column once an initial bout of buying for

the first account day was spent.

The blue-chip CAC-40 index ended up 2.11 points at 2.289.55, at which point Wall Street's Dow Jones index was up 23.83 points, or around 0.37 percent, at 6512,85.

ranges as turnover dwindled to a trickle before the Christmas break. With Germany and some other European centers closed, London was set to stop currency trading soon after midsession.

### Dow index gains in short session **WALL STREET REPORT**

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks drifted mostly higher yesterday, led by technology bellwethers and other blue-chip issues in predictably quiet trading during a shortened pre-Christmas session.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 33.83 points to close at 6,522.85.

The technology-laden Nasdaq market shot higher over the last half hour as bargain hunters bid up some computer-related issues that had dipped on profit-taking.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 10-to-9 margin on the New York Stock Exchange,

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with 1,178 up, 1,077 down and

929 unchanged. NYSE volume totaled 167.17 million shares at the early 1 p.m. close. That was down sharply from 192.58 million shares traded by I p.m. on Monday and 339.96 million for Monday's full session.

The Standard and Poor's 500-

stock index rose 4.11 to 751.03, and the NYSE's composite index rose 1.71 to 395.00.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 8.11 to 1,287.63, and the American Stock Exchange's market value index rose 0.37 to

### **MORDECHAI**

(Continued from Page 1) The chemistry between Mordechai and the Egyptians turned out to be so good, defense officials said, that Mordechai held an unplanned, hour-long meeting with Tantawi, the first between an Israeli and Egyptian defense min-ister since Yitzhak Rabin was in

Egypt in 1989.

"The Egypt we saw today is not the Egypt of yesterday," one Defense Ministry official said. Speaking in a mixture of Arabic and English, Mordechai and Mubarak emerged from their

lunch as what appeared to be best of friends, holding hands and smiling. "More than once we held hands

and chatted in Arabic and English, and with our body language and eye movements. I found a very interesting man who is for the continuation of the peace process," Mordechai said. adding that military relations, which have slacked off since the late 1980s, would be strengthened between the two defense establishments.

"[Mubarak] said to forget about any war. Take that word 'war' out of your lexicon," Mordechai said. Remnants of war are still visible at the bombed out military runway at Hurghada airport, the site of many IAF bombing raids. Since the peace treaty, however, the tiny fishing village southwest of Sharm e-Sheikh is today a bustling tourist resort with over a million visitors a year.

For Mordechai, it was a particularly moving visit. The last time he was on Egyptian soil was on deep penetration raids in the early 1970s as a paratroop battalion commander. His battalion was decimated during the Yom Kippur War in the battle for Chinese Farm. Nearby, Tantawi com-manded a battalion that also suffered heavy loses.

"We both have very difficult memories from that time. To come back here and meet as two defense ministers who are looking for ways to strengthen the peace is very important," Mordechai

Defense officials said they discussed improving the ties between the two armies, including exchanging delegations and setting up a hot line.

"I left many friends in Egyptian soil. This flight from Israel to Hurghada is a bridge between the generation of war and the generation of peace," he said in the cockpit, while gazing at the Sinai beneath him.

# KGB spy gets four years in plea bargain

FORMER national table-tennis coach Alexander Radlis, convicted of spying for Russia, was sentenced to four years in prison and three years' suspended sentence in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

. Radlis admitted to spying and reached a plea bargain agreement with the district attorney, which was adopted by Judges Amnon Strashnov, Ze'ev Hammer and Shelly Timen.

The judges ruled that although the charges of espionage and contact with a foreign agent are serious, no actual damage was caused

to the country and noted that Radlis himself cut off all contact with his operators eight years ago. He also cooperated with the security authorities, confessed and showed remorse, they said.

Radlis immigrated here in 1979. after being recruited some five years earlier by the KGB in his native Russia. He was trained in espionage, especially undercover communications systems and code-deciphering. According to the charge sheet, he was initially Lebanese border.

1988 sent letters to his operators written in invisible ink and was asked to decipher Morse code sent by the KGB. He was paid a over \$4,000 for his services.

He would meet with his operators abroad, using table-tennis matches in different countries as a cover. He was asked to relay to his operators information on the political and economic climate in Israel, details of his army reserve duty and the unit in which he served and conditions on the

### Meridor: Latest budget changes. won't hurt the poor

THE Knesset debate on the economic arrangements bill accompanying the budget continued yesterday, but was largely overshadowed by the Hebron talks.

Though voting was originally supposed to take place round the clock, no votes were actually held either Monday or yesterday during the day, by mutual agreement of the various factions.

The Treasury spent the day in a flurry of public relations activity to persuade both MKs and the press of the merits of its latest revenue-raising proposals. The support of coalition MKs is essential, as it is trying to pass two of these proposals as amendments to the Arrangements Bill during the vote on its second and third readings.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor took the podium to explain the last-minute tax increases the Treasury introduced this week, meant to cover the revenue hole produced by changes made to the Arrangements Bill in the Knesset Finance Committee on Sunday. These measures are supposed to raise NIS 750 million: NIS 150m. from higher cigarette taxes, NIS 250m from higher gas taxes, NIS 270m. from eliminating the half tax credit given to married working women, and NIS 80m. from increasing the number of sick days paid by employers, before the National Insurance Institute takes

Ministry officials

open graves

of 'missing'

Yemenite children

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry yesterday began opening 10 graves in Petah

Tikva believed to be the burial

place of Yemenite immigrant chil-

dren who disappeared during the

The ministry said yesterday that

six graves were opened, and that

all were human remains, with

three the size of children. The

bones will be examined at the

Institute for Forensic Medicine at

Abu Kabir, and samples will

undergo weeks or even months of

genetic testing in a lab that spe-

Their genetic profiles will then

be compared with those of fami-

lies who claim their children were

taken from them without explana-

The ministry said that the

exhumation of the graves was

complicated because the bodies

were of children and buried 50

years ago in hard soil. It will issue

its findings at the conclusion of

Exclusive for trips to Jordan!

tion nearly five decades ago.

early years of the state.

cializes in this.

#### **EVELYN GORDON**

over the payments, from two to nine. The first two measures have already gone into effect; the government hopes to pass the latter two as amendments to the

Arrangements Bill. In total, some NIS 2.5 billion of the NIS 7.2b. deficit-reduction package will come from increased revenues rather than budget cuts mostly from taxes.

Obviously it would have been better for the whole NIS 7.2b. to come from cutting expenditures, but it became clear that this was not possible," Meridor said. He defended the new measures from a social standpoint, noting that the gas tax hike, for instance, was accompanied by a cut in taxes on heating oil - something more necessary to the poor. Similarly, he said, since 62% of married women do not even pay taxes, eliminating their additional tax credit will not hart the poor. Women with children already get tax credits which men do not get, he added, but this particular credit, based purely on

gender, is unjustified. Opposition MKs, however, hammered away at the govern-ment for having raised taxes despite having promised not to. "'Read my lips,' the prime minis-ter said," noted Dalia Itzik, head of Labor's response team. "I think

he meant to say 'read my lipstick.' He continued to lie, time after

Dedi Zucker (Meretz) translated the word "tax" into 15 different languages, from Hindi to Portuguese, and promised to say it in every language spoken in Israel by the end of the night.

Coalition MKs responded by lauding the changes made in the bill from a social welfare stand-

"We achieved a great success," said Silvan Shalom (Likud), who heads the coalition in the Finance Committee. "The previous finance minister wasn't willing to hear about social issues."

According to the Treasury, the addition of NIS 750m. in new revenue-raising measures this week stemmed from three factors. The most important was the Finance Committee's refusal to increase co-payments for medicines and institute fees for visits to doctors and hospital clinics, leaving a NIS 560m. revenue hole.

Second was the replacement of planned cuts in child allowances with a one-year freeze on the updating of tax brackets for inflation. Originally, the Treasury had said these two options would save about the same amount, but it later discovered that the tax-bracket freeze would bring in NIS 125m.



Christians carry a banner in Bethlehem depicting the Virgin Mary in the town's Manger Square yesterday at the start of Christmas celebrations.

VIOLINIST Isaac Stern added

another title to the long list of

### Violinist Stern picks up award and raps religious intolerance

THE former director-general of the Tel Aviv Municipality, Eli Eshet, was convicted yesterday by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's

Court of fraud and forgery. The charges relate to a period in 1992, when Eshet commissioned the services of two private investigation companies, paying them with municipality funds to "dig up dirt" on city councillors Eitan Sulami and Ben-Tzion Moradov. The councillors had consistently slammed Eshet's functioning in the municipality and had accused him of irregularities.

THE Ports and Railways Authority

is to invest NIS 40 million in the

construction of two new railway

stations in Beersheba, director-

general Shoresh Leter announced

yesterday. One station will be next

to the central bus station, and the

second close to Soroka Hospital

### RAINE MARCUS

convicted of fraud and forgery

Former TA municipality chief

prosecution the Eshet, argued, mounted a campaign intended to blacken Moradov's and Sulami's names. He used NIS 55,000 in municipal funds to hire the Kavenet private investigation company to follow the two councillors, reporting the expenses to municipality auditors as "consultation

However, the company did not find any conclusive evidence to besmirch Sulami and Moradov, and so Eshet decided

to employ another investigation company, Tashbetz. He paid Tashbetz NIS 54,000 out of municipal funds, again listing the cash as "consulting fees for the director-general," the prosecution said.

Judge Zecharia Caspi concluded that Eshet was fully aware that he defrauded the municipality by falsely listing expenses and that his acts were not the result of human error. Caspi also said that municipalities should lay down clear-cut rules to prevent any misuse of

awards and honorary doctorates Monday night, when he became an honorary fellow of the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv. The occasion also gave Stern an opportunity to speak out against religious intolerance.

Minutes before receiving his award, a video had shown Stern playing at the Mann Auditorium in 1991 during the Gulf War. A siren sounded. The camera panned over the audience putting on gas masks. The orchestra seemed to leave the stage, or some did. Not Isaac Stern.-He waved away something - a prof-fered mask, maybe? - and

played.
"I don't feel proper that such special recognition should be given me for playing the fiddle and coming here from time to time," said Stern, to laughter.

He's here right now playing his fiddle at the Philharmonic's 60th anniversary celebrations.

On a more serious note, he said that "there's a frightening ambiguity to life in Israel right now. For those who feel as I did, and do still, how the establishment of Israel changed the word Jew from an attack on [a person] to a description of a person, it's difficult to see the virulence and violence of Jew to Jew in Israel.

"Jews know better than anybody what happens when a per-son says 'only what I believe is right. Everyone else is wrong." Surely it's not for Jews to do

"Can I urge all of you to contribute to the reunification of that spirit of hope that seduced me when first I came here, and that has brought me back at least twice a year thereafter."

### Winning cards and numbers

THE winning cards in vesterday's daily Chance drawing were the seven of spades, the queen of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the queen of clubs. In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 8, 10, 25, 34, 43 and 49, and the additional number was 35.

### Tarif blasts Kahalani for missing **Interior Committee** meeting

LIAT COLLINS

RELATIONS between Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Knesset Interior Committee Chairman Sallah Tarif reached a new low yesterday when the minister stood Tarif up. The committee met yesterday morning at 8 to discuss Kahalani's refusal to allow police commanders Aryeh Amit and Elik . Ron to appear before the committee last week to submit their periodic reviews and discuss the reports of tension between them.

Tarif fumed that Kahalani was worsening the relations between the Knesset and government and. violating the Knesset House Rules and the Basic Law: The Government by not appearing before the committee, which monitors his ministry's opera-

"Kahalani is responsible as the internal security minister for enforcing the law, but he himself is breaking it. He has overstepped his bounds in the way he relates to the committee, banning senior officers from appearing and not even bothering to turn up himself. The meeting was aimed at helping dispel public fears about what is going on in the police force, so he's scoring in his own goal by not coming," Tarif said. Kahalani later told Israel Radio

that he would not let any politician interfere in police matters and would appear before the committee himself, though he would not allow the commanders to do so. He said he was given extremely short notice of the request to appear before the committee and could not rearrange his plans. Kahalani stressed that the law and principle of democracy required the police to be unaffected by political interference and accused Tarif of seeking headlines.

Tarif decided that in the meantime the committee would freeze the handling of all police requests for additional manpower, including urgent requests that were received recently.

### Poraz becomes lone Shinui representative

MK Avraham Poraz has become Shimni's only representative in the Knesset, since the party split from Meretz. Recently, the Mapam and Citizens' Rights Movement factions in Meretz united as one party. Some Shinui members, including MK Amnon Rubinstein, joined the new party, while Poraz remained with Shimi on a sens-

### REGULAR TOURS, HOTELS, TRAVEL ORDAN EXPERTS \*JORDAN and ISRAEL MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Qatar, Oman, Iraq

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> **SEASON'S SPECIAL** Rent a car • Hotels • Flight Diving • Safari • Private tour MAZADA TOURS

### SYBIL EHRLICH

and Ben-Gurion University. The planned line will be a branch

of the already approved rail extension to Ramat Hovay, for the transport of dangerous waste materials and the transfer of the freight ter-

Beersheba getting two new railway stations minal out of the city, at a cost of NIS 150 million. The passenger line will necessitate a slight realignment of the track, as well as

the two new stations. With the exception of an experimental students' train last April, no passenger trains have run to Beersheba since 1978.

Fill out this entry form today, return it to The Jerusalem Post and participate in our weekly raffle for valuable gift certificates from Kitar Center, Golf and Levi's stores!

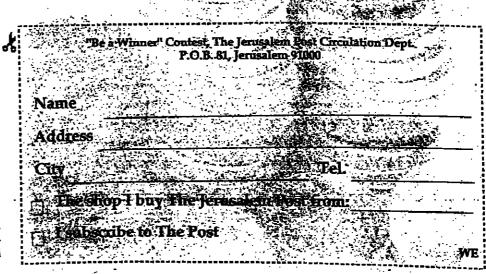
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THE JERUSALEM POST



Only original entry forms accepted, no photocopies, fax copies or separate sheets of paper. Campaign valid through February 21, 1997. Entry form will not be held over from previous week draws. Jerreslem Poet employee.

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**CRITIC'S CHOICE** 

### EXHIBITION

HELEN KAYE

THE Morgue, an exhibition of 12 large works by controversial American photographer Andres Serrano will have its official opening tomorrow. Serrano has been accused of sacrilege and blasphemy for his irreverent treatment of religious symbols. His stated concern is the transience of the human body, and this exhibition focuses on bodies in the city morgue. At the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

#### CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL. AJZENSTADT

THE Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's 60th anniversary celebrations continue tonight with two special

At the Mann Auditorium in Tel Avīv (8:30) Daniel Barenboim leads the IPO in an all-Beethoven program comprising the fifth Pinhas Zukerman joins in to play the composer's violin concerto.

At the same time at the Jerusalem International Convention Center Zubin Mehta leads two youth orchestras, the Young Israel Philharmonic and the International Symphony Orchestra is Berlioz' Symphonie fantastique.

The soloists are Gil Shaham playing Bruch's first violin concerto and Yefim Bronfman playing Saint Saens' second piano concerto. The concert is dedicated to the memory of Shalom Ronly Riklis, the founder of the Young Israel Philharmonic.

ROBERT King, one of the leading early music specialists of our time, makes his Israeli debut leading the Israel Camerata Jerusalem in a Vivaldi program featuring the Gloria and Nisi Dominus with soprano Constanze Backes, countertenor Lawrence Zazzo and the Kibbntz Artzi Choir as well as the same composer's minor vio-

symphony and the Daniel Barenboim leads the IPO in an all-Beethoven program Egmont overture while in celebration of the orchestra's 60th anniversary.

lin concerto with Arnold Kobiliansky as soloist. Thursday in Rehovot, Friday through Sunday at the Tel Aviv Museum, 8:30 except Friday at 2,

THE Litargica festival in Jerusalem continues Thursday at the Dormition Abbey (8:30) with a performance of the Cantate Domino boys choir from Germany.

ANOTHER liturgical music festival takes place this Friday and Saturday in Nazareth with seven concerts in two of the city's churches. Among the highlights are the Mozart requiem (Saturday at 4), and the Saint Saens Christmas Oratorio and the Vivaldi Gloria with the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra and a visiting chorus from Germany (Saturday at 12:30).

The same program will be repeated Sunday in Kimaron, next Tuesday in Carmiel, January 1 in Ein Hashofet and January 4 in Givat Brener 8:30.

E CHANNEL 1

**EDUCATIONAL TV** 

ARABIC PROGRAMS 8:30 Family Matters 19:00 News

of Bat Yam-New York 21:13 Wonderful World - with Erez Tal. First program of the new season. 22:42 The End of the World — new series in which Earth is about to be hit by a meteorite. With Shei Avivi, Tamara Salem and Nathan Brand. 00:00 News 00:05 The Cherry Brand. 00:00 News 00:05 The Cherry Season (Hebrew, 1991) – as Israel prepares to withdraw from Lebanon, an advertisement executive is called up for reserve duty. He becomes obsessed with making sure that his death, which he is sure awaits him, is properly memorialized. With Sasson Gabbal and Eli Yatzpan. Directed by Haim Buzaglo. (115 mins.) 2:00 Gillette World Sport Special 2:27 Blue Sky 2:50 Nine to Five 3:16 The Great Sky 2:50 Nine to Five 3:16 The Great

### WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS28.08 per line, including VAT.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Brontman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bidg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28, For Info, call

HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installa-tions, Chagail Windows. Tel. 02-416333, 02-

HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, diel 04-8374253.

### CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

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R D

7 Lifted guncase to add

padding (9) 8 Classification of information given to soldiers (5) 10 Edge for four (8)

11 Contents of bottlenamely, nail-varnish (6) 12 Chap's means of focusing

13 Call out to tragic king emergency is over (3,5)

replaced (8)

15 Refuse to go down (7) 17 Offer boy such practical experience (5-2) 20 Toothless attendee was

22 Record is set at end of race

25 Call "heads" in Boat Race (6) 26 Acceptable that nothing's

left? (3,5) 27 Grim time in a Channel

Island (5) 28 Portray me somehow as transient (9)

DOWN 1 Protective garment for the stage (5)

2 Quiet cat may suddenly jump (6)

3 It's criminal, when crack troops do wrong (8)

4 We yearn drunkenly for when Christmas is over

5 With full particulars of how Three Blind Mice ended up? (8) 6 Secret Society man gives false forenames (9)

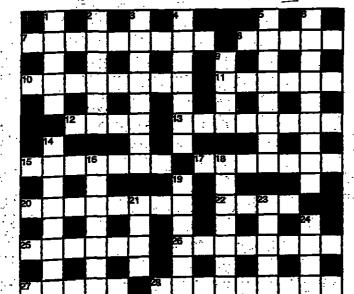
9 Terrorist group in place of custody (4)

14 Fix a large settlement for slander (9) 16 Publican gives ground to

peer (8)
18 Swift animal to run—put stake on (8) 19 Threatens people with big serves (7)

21 Beginners in arithmetic learn some operations in addition (4)

23 Be nosy about Brazilian city monastery (6) 24 Attractiveness of church



SOLUTIONS 

Yesterday's Quick Solution ACROSS: 1 Careless, 7 Stork, 8 Recollect, 9 AH, 10 Onus, 11 Spirel, 13 Precis, 14 Global, 17 Letter, 18 True, 20 Lie, 22 Knowledge, 23 Isano, 24 Transmit. DOWN: 1 Cargo, 2 Rockuse, 2 Lull, 4 Sloopy, 5 Total, 6 Skilful, 7 Sterile, 12 Mistake, 13 Purloin, 15 edom, 16 Detour, 17 Legal, 19

### QUICK CROSSWORD

**ACROSS** 1 German songs (6) 4 Lost animal (5)

8 Hackneyed (5) 9 Italian dish (7) 10 Ran away (7) 11 Conception (4) 12 45 inch measure

14 Short note (4) 15 Talented (4) 18 Novel (3) 21 Crustacean (4) 23 Disturb (7) 25 Regret (7)

13 Idleness (8) 16 Hide (7) 26 Prevailing spirit (5) 27 Consumed (5) 28 Fish-hawk (6)

1 Most recent (6) 2 Incident (7) 3 Vote for candidate (8)

4 Shoulder ribbon (4). 5 Scolded (5) 6 Small land owner (6) 7 Vulgar (5)

17 Increase (6) 19 Bet (5) 20 Sweater (6) 22 Acknowledge (5)

24 Wide smile (4)

### **TELEVISION**

6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

8:00 Evolutionary Trands 8:30 On Second Thought 9:00 Social Sciences 9:30 English 9:45 Programs for the young 10:15 100 Years of Zionism 11:15 Geography 11:40 Judaism 12:05 Music 12:35 Science and Technology 13:00 in the Heat of the Night – police series 14:00 Surprise Train 14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy 14:35 Babar the Elephant 15:00 Animals

E CHANNEL 1

15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 Booly 16:00 The Mysterious Island 16:25 Zap to 3 - Joint broadcast with Radio 3 16:55 Zap to Basel 16:59 A New Evening 17:34 Zappy Culture - live program on culture for youth 18:15 News in English

HEBREW PROGRAMS HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News flash 19:31 Campus Cops
20:00 News 20:45 Conference Call —
talk show with Nissim Mishal 21:20
Michight Man — tour-part miniseries
continuing the adventures of mercenary Sean Dillon. Part 3 22:10 No
Man's Land — media magazine 23:00
Keeping Up Appearances 23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

E CHANNEL 2

13:00 Top Cat 13:30 Scoobydoo 14:00 Echo Point 14:30 Tie Tac – quiz show 15:00 Yamba's Magic 15:30 Dave's World 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef 17:30 SporTV – for youth 18:00 Senora 19:00 Crossings – part 2 20:00 News 20:30 Behind the Scenes of Rat Yam-New York 21:13 Woorderful

Insertion every day of the month costs NIS520.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERI ISALEM Conducted Tours

TEL: AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Following the Shock: ii n Yitzi the Ministry of education Prize in Plastic Arts. Portraits: By a group of Israeli artists; Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in con-temporary Israeli art. Face to Face: Didactic Exhibition. New acquisition: Two Tiffany Stained Glass Windows. HELENA RUBIN-STEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART Shinon Republished and Amon Republished David, New works. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerholf Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8.

#### **GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 570-6660; Bailsam, Salah a-Din, 827-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat, Road, 581-827-2316; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 531-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 528-2058. Tell Aviv. Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 lbn Gwtrol, 548-2040; Kupat Hollim Maccabi, 7 Ha-Shia, 548-5558, Till 3 a.m. Thursday. Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 lbn Gwirol, 546-2040. Till midnight: Superpharm Remet Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; London Ministore Superpharm, 4 Shaul Harnelech, 698-0115. 696-0115.

696-0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Kinneret, 119
Weizmenn, Kfar Sava; 767-3228.
Netanya: Porat, 76 Petah Tikva, 340967.
Hette: Hebankim, 5 Habankim, 851-3005.
Krayot area: Sabinia, 24 Hagelen, Kiryat Biaik, 673-5674.
Herzilya: Ctal Pharm, Beit Merkezim, 6
Maskit (crsr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzilya
Pitueh, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to michight. midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clai Pharm, Lev He'ir Mail, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Mail, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalam: Shaare Zedek (internal, ophthalmology, ENT); Hadesseh En Kerem (surgery, obstetrics); Hadesseh Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Bibur Holim (pediatrics).

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).

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(English) in most parts of the country, in addition:
Ashdod 8551333 | Klar Sara\* 902222 Kler Seva" 902222 Neherlya" 9012333 Neherlya" 904444 Petah Tilaya" 9311111 Rehovol" 9451333 Rishon" 9642333 Ashjosion 6551332 csheba\* 6274767 Belt Shemesh 6523133 Dan Region" 5793333 Eller" 6332444 Halfa: 8512233 Jensselem 523133 Tel Aviv\* 5480111 Karmiel" 9985444 Tiberies" 792444

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The National Poison Control Center at Rambarn Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for Information in case of poisoning. Eran — Emotional First Ald. 1201, also: Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-111 (children/youth 696-1113). Hada 857-2222/3, Beershebe 649-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kitar Sava 767-4555 Hadaa 346789 022-9110 5110, Kätmen 1908-97/V, Naar Gava 707-4555, Hadera 346789. Wizo hotilines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0508 (also in Rispe Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv Happe Crass Curtair (24 nours), 181 AVV 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5550, Halle 863-0533, Ellet 833-1977. Hadeasah Medical Organization — Israel Cangar Association support service 02-824Waldo Pepper 5:00 On the Edge of the R CHILDREN (6) Shelf

**JORDAN TY** 

14:05 Snow White - The 12 Days of Christmas 15:30 Christmas 15:00 Earth Revealed 18:30 Blizzard Island 17:00 News flash 17:02 Kelly & Challenge - documentary 18:00 French programs 19:30 News headlines 19:35 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air 20:00 Challenges 21:10 NBA Basketball 22:00 News in English 22:25 Cobra 00:00 Hart to Hart 00:45 Who's the Boss? MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 Quantum Shopping 8:00 TV Shop 14:30 The 700 Club 15:00 Larry King 16:00 The A-Team 16:55 Family Challenge 17:45 Family Matters 18:10 Saved by the Bell 18:35 Day and Date 19:30 World News Tonight 20:00 Alabaster's Song 20:25 Dave's World 21:15 Home for Christmas – feature film 23:00 CNN 00:00 TV Shop 2:00 Quantum Shopping 3:00 TV Shop

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons 16:30 Yasin and Bahaya 17:15 Discussion in Arabic 18:00 Amores 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Documentary in Russian 20:00 News 20:45 Are You Being Served? 21:15 No Angel: The Life of Marlene Districh (rpt) 22:15 An Evening with Marlene Districh (rpt) 23:15 Great British Classics

15:30 Wonder Years 18:00 100 Years of Zionism 17:20 Trails Here and There 17:35 Phenomenal World 18:00 Welcome to France 18:30 Family Relations 19:00 Evolutionary Trands 19:30 Vis à Vis 20:00 A New Evening, with Decision with Russian subtitles 20:30 Basic Arabic 21:00 Star Trek - The Next Generation 21:45 Pop Songs 22:00 Zombit 22:30 Syncopation 23:30 The Jews of North Africa in the era of colo-

M FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Sisters (rpt) 9:00 One Life to Live (rpt) 9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt) 11:20 Perla Negra (rpt) 12:10 Neighbors (rpt) 12:35 Dallas (rpt) 13:30 Starting at 1:30 14:10 Rosie O'Neill 15:00 Sisters 15:50 Days of Our Lives 16:40 Neighbors 17:10 Dallas 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and the Restless 19:30 Daias 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45
The Young and the Restless 19:30
Local broadcast 20:00 Perta Negra
20:50 Melrose Place 21:40 Savannah
22:30 Silk Stalkings 23:20 Night Stand
with Dick Dietrick 23:45 Law and Order
00:30 Silk Stalkings 1:20 North of 60

IN MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Windprints (1989) (rpt) 13:05 New at the Cinema 13:20 It's a Wonderful Life (1946) - all-time classic Christmas film with James Stewart as the young man contemplating suicide who is convinced by his guardian angel that title has value 15:35 The Dead (1987) (rpt) 17:00 The Nutcracker Prince (1990) - animated version of Prince (1990) – animated version of E.T.A. Hoffman's book about a girl who joins the prince in fighting the mouse king. With the voices of Kiefer Suthertand, Megan Follows and Peter O'Toole. (70 mins.) 18:10 New in the Cinema 18:25 Princess of the Moon (Japanese, 1987) – beautiful adaptation of old folidate about a girl sent from heaven to a poor childless couple 20:15 Mr. Wonderful (1993) (rpt) 22:00 The Keeper (1995) – a parole officer believes in the innocence of a rapist and posts ball for him. His wife's attrac-tion for him turns jealousy into paranola (89 mins.) 23:35 Jaws (1975) – Steven Spleiberg's thriller about a New Spletberg's thriller about a New England community that's terrorized by a lotter shark won three Oscars (Including one for John Williams's memorable sound track). (119 mins.) 1:35 sound track). (119 mins.) 1:35 Homicide (1991) (rpt) 3:15 Save Me

DON Sense and Sensibility 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. HQD 1-4 = 5:22626 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. EddlesDragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 \* The Eighth Day 7:30, 10 \* The Nutty Professor 5 \* Jude 10 LEV The Truth About Cats and Dogs 11:15 a.m., 1:15, 3, 7:45, 10 \* La Ceremonie 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 \* Antonia's Line 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 \* Antonia's Line 11 a.m., 5 \* La Affina Eighthe 1, 3, 8 \* Steeling Beauty 11 a.m., 3:15, 5, 7:30, 10 \* Trainspotting 1:15, 5:30, 10 G.G. PETER Sleepers 4:30, 7:15, 10 \* Eddle 5, 7:30, 10 \* Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 \* Jude 4:30, 7:15, 10 \* A Time to Kill 4:30, 7:15, 10 RAV-CHEN\* 5:282288 Dizengolf Center Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Kingpin 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Bound 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Last Man Standing 11:30 a.m., 7:945 \* Last Man Standing 11:30 a.m., 9:945 \* Last Man Standing 11:30 a.m., 9:945 \* Last Man Standing 11:30 a.m., 9:945 \* Last

5 HAV-OH 1-5 = 51026/4 Upera House Spiffire GrilleDogs Are Color SilnoteThings To Do In Denver@Basquist 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Lone Star 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 G.G. TEL AVIV \* 2281181 65 Pinsker St. Sleegers 4:30, 7:15, 10 \* Gilmmer Man@Fled 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSEUM Evertasting

Joy 5, 8, 10 HAIFA CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI = 8325755

CINEMA CAPE AMAN # 835/95
Steeling Beauty@Summer in La Goulette
7:15, 8:15 ATZMON Sleepers 4:15,
6:45, 9:30 \* Gilmmer Man@The
Rock@The Quest 4:30, 7, 9:15 \*
Independence Day 4:15, 6:45, 9:15
CNEMATHEQUE GLOBECTY
COMMANDE

Independence Day

CINEMATHEQUE

GLOBECTY

Dragonheart 4:45, 7:15, 9:46 \* Eddle

4:45, 7:15, 9:45 \* Sleepers 4:30, 7:15,
10 \* Two Nuch 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 \* Babe (Hebrew dislog) The Nutty

Professor \* Glimmer Man 4:45, 7:15,
9:45 MORIAH CAFE \* 864385\*

Breaking the Waves 6:45, 9:30 ORLY

#8381868 Emma 7, 9:15 PANORAMA

Eddle 4:30, 7, 9:30 \* Two Much 4:30,
7, 9:30 \* A Time to Kill 6:45, 9:30 \*
The Nutty Professor 4:30 RAV-GAT 12 \* 8674311 Kingpin Long Kiss

Goodnight 4:45, 7, 9:15 RAV-MOR 17 \* 9:416898 Kingpin Lingle All the Way

4:45, 7, 9:15 \* Long Kiss Goodnight 4:30, 7,
9:15 \* Emma 4:45, 7, 9:15 \* The Truth

ABout Cats and Dogs 4:45, 7, 9:15 \*

The Quest 5, 7, 9:15 RAV-OR 1-3 \*

#246553 The Truth About Cats and Dogs

8:30 Cartoons 9:00 Coure Marco 9:30
The Center of Things (pt) 9:45 Pink
Panther Show 10:05 The Center of
Things 10:20 The Adventures of Pete
and Pete 10:45 The Center of Things
11:05 Hangin' with Mr. Cooper 11:30
Little University 12:00 Shesh-Tus
12:30 Hugo 13:00 Surprise Garden
13:15 Avenger Penguins 13:40 Blinky
8it 14:00 Simba the Lion King 14:30
Coure Marco 15:00 The Center of
Thinos 15:15 Pink Panther Show 15:50 Things 15:15 Pink Panther Show 15:50 Mirror, Mirror 16:15 The Center of Things 16:35 Welcome Freshmen 17:05 Little University 17:30 Shesh-Tus 18:00 Hugo 18:30 Looney Toons and Tasmania 19:00 Jin Jin and the Panda Patrol 19:30 Ital and Friends—Panda Patrol 19:50 Ital Panthers Panda Parrol 19:30 hai and Finends — children's talk show 20:10 Rocko's Modern Life 20:25 Married with Children 20:50 Roseanne 21:15 Lois and Clark

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Exotica (1994) – Five desperate characters' destinies become linked with a strip club as the focal point 23:45 Quiet Days in Clichy (French, 1990) – adaptation by Claude Chabrol of Henry Miller's novel about an American writer who spends his time in Paris carousing in brothels (100 mins)

E DISCOVERY (8)

8:00 Open University — Sex and Society; Middle Generation; Political Systems 12:00 National Geographic Explorer (rpt) 13:00 Voltaire 1694-1778 (rpt) 14:00 Open University (rpt) 16:00 National Geographic Explorer (rpt) 17:00 Voltaire 1694-1778 (rpt) 18:00 Open University (rpt) 20:00 Endangered World: Zimbabwe — Camp-Air. Documentary on democracy and local tractitions 21:00 World of Geo: Fire Mountains — six-part series about people in remote places existing with powerful forces of nature. Part 1: The people of Java, living below live volcanoes 22:00 Visionaries: Small Solutions to Giant Problems, part 3 — Midwives, Lullabies and Mother Earth 23:00 Endangered World: Zimbabwe (rpt) 00:00 Open University

III SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 The Selina Scott Show 7:00 The Ticket 7:30 NBC Morning News 8:00 Today 10:00 National Geographic 13:00 Travel Express 13:30 Executive Lifestyles 14:00 Fashion File 14:30 Italian Cooking 15:00 Greek Wines 15:30 The Ticket 16:00 Again and Again 17:00 MSNBC - The Site 18:00 National Geographic 19:00 The Wine Express 19:30 The Ticket 20:00 The Selina Scott Show 21:00 Dateline 22:00 Golf: European PGA 23:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno 00:00 Later with Greg Kranear 1:30 NBC News 2:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno 3:00 MSNBC - Internight

STAR PLUS

6:00 It's a Wonderful Life (1946) - alltime classic Christmas movie with
James Stewart 8:30 Some Mothers Do
'Ave 'Em 9:00 Christmas Around the
World 11:00 The Reporter 11:30
Buniyaad 12:00 The Simpsons 12:30
Home For the Holidays (1995) - Holly
Hunter and Robert Downey Jr. star in
this movie about a woman who files
home to spend the holidays with her
dysfunctional family. Directed by Jodie
Foster. (110 mins.) 14:30 Graham
Kerr's Kitchen 15:00 To the Manor
Bom 15:30 News in Hindi 18:00 Small
Wonder 16:30 The Bold and the
Beautiful 17:00 -Hindi program 17:39
Star News 18:00 'Allo 'Allo 18:30
Baywatch 19:30 The Bold and the
Beautiful 20:00 Santa Barbara 21:00
Beverty Hills 90:10 22:00 Picket
Fences 23:00 Quincy 00:00 Oprah
Winfrey 1:00 Barnaby Jones 2:00
Home and Away 2:30 The Sullivans Home and Away 2:30 The Sullivans

8:30 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Bodies in Motion 16:30 Dangerous Games 17:00 College Basketball 18:30 National League Volleyball 19:30 South American Soccer 20:00 To be

world sports 22:00 Soccer from the League of Champions 23:00 Boxing

**E** FUROSPORT

9:30 4X4 - season review 10:30 World Sport 11:30 Soccer: World Cup Legends 12:00 World Sport 13:30 Olympic Games 14:90 Soccer: European Cup 15:00 Motor Racing: Formula 1 - season review 19:00 Motorsports Magazine 20:00 World Sport 21:00 Body Building 21:30 Sumo - season review 23:00 World Sport 23:30 Olympic Games 00:00 Soccer: World Cup - roundup of qualifying matches 1:00 Equestrian: World Cup, London 2:08 World Sport 9:30 4X4 - season review 10:30 World

**# PRIME SPORTS** 

6:00 Boating 6:30 Superbike motorcy-cle racing 7:30 Squash 8:30 Cricket 9:30 Athletics 10:30 Cricket: Best of the World Cup 11:30 World Windsurfing 12:00 Table Tennis: Pro tour 14:00 Trans World Sport 15:00 Asian Soccer Show 16:00 Sports India 16:30 Indian League Soccer 20:30 Watersports World 21:30 Squash 22:30 Motorcycle Racing: Supercross, Japan 23:30 Cricket: Best of the World Cup 00:30 Sports India 1:00 Cup 00:30 Sports India 1:00 Basketball: NBA Game of the Week -LA Lakers vs. Phoenix Suns - live 3:30

Indian League Soccer

M BBC WORLD News on the hour 6:05 The State of the News on the hour 6:05 The State of the World – forum debate (rpt) 10:05 Horizon (rpt) 11:30 Film '96 (rpt) 14:15 Panorama (rpt) 15:15 World Business Report 15:30 Asla-Pacific Newshour 16:30 The Clothes Show – Christmas Special 17:05 The State of the World – forum debate (rpt) 18:30 Tornorrow's World (rpt) 19:30 Holiday (rpt) 22:05 Pole to Pole – Shifting Sands 23:30 Top Gear 00:00 World Business Report

### RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC 6:06 Morning Concert 9:05 Schubert: Plano trio no 2 in E flat (Y. Menuhin, Gendron, H. Menuhin); Mozart: Plano concerto no 25 (Barenbolm, conductor concerto no 25 (Barenbulli, concerto and soloist/English CO); Ravel: Concerto for piano left hand (Entremont/Cleveland/Boulez); Beethoven: Symphony no 5 (Philharmonia/Klemperer); Nielsen: Clarinet concerto (Good-(Philharmonia/Klemperer); Nielsen: Clarinet concerto (Good-man/Chicago/M. Gould); Barber: Adagio for strings op 11 (I Musicl) 12:00 Light Classical – symphonic dances by Mozart, Dvorak, Lladov, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Smetana, Bizet, J. Strauss II 13:00 Planist Mikhail Pletnev Liert Scorate in 8 minor them Années Strauss II 13:00 Planist Mikhail Pletnev – Liszt: Sonata in B minor from Années de Pelerinage 14:06 Encore 15:00 Keys 16:00 Bach: Camata no 119 (Toelz Boys' Choir/Concertus Musicus/Hamoncourt); Britten: Ceremony of Carols (Prague Youth Choir); Beethoven: Christus am Ölberg oratorio (Raskin and others/Temple U/Philadelphia/Ormandy) 18:00 Schubert: Imprompts in G flat op 90/3 (Perahla); Max Bruch: 3 pleces for clarinet, viola and plano op 83 (Meyer, Zimmermann, Höll); Schumann: 3 songs from Dichterfiebe (Protschka, Deutsch); Franck: Sonata in A for violin songs from Dichterfiebe (Protschka, Deutsch); Franck: Sonata in A for violin and piano; Ravef: Le fombeau de Couperin; Relnecke: 3 fantasy pieces for viola and piano op 43 (Caussé, Duchable); Fauré: Trio in D minor for piano, violin and cello op 120 (Beaux Arts) 20:05 (1) Prague Philharmonic. Chamber Orch, cond. Jiri Belofitávák. Mendelssohn: Hebrides overture, Violin concerto: Mozart: Piano concerto Violin concerto; Mozart: Piano concerto no 14; Schubert: Symphony no 5. (2)
Noam Sheriff: La Folia variations
(Bavarian RSO/Shallon), Prayers for
chamber orch (ICO/Shallon) 23:00
Golden Generation — Nathan Brand,
plano. Haydn: Partita; Scarlatti: 4
sonatas; Schubert: Moment Musical no
2 in A flat D780; Schumann:
Blumenstück in D flat op 19; Nathan
Brand: Improvisation; Chopin:
Noctume

### CINEMA

7,9:15 \* Bound@Basquiat 4:45, 7, 9:15 \* Jingle All the Way 4:45 AFULA RAV CHEN \* 6424047 Long Kiss Goodnight 7, 9:30 \* Spittire Grill 9:30 \* Kingpin 7, 9:30 \* Jingle All the Way

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Stranghal Triad 5, 9:30 & Priscilla 9:30 & Samir 9:30 G.G. G.G. G.B. Jeusalem Mail (Maiha) # 6788448
Sleepers® A Time to Kill 4:30, 7:15, 10

# Eddie®Fled ®Two Much®Gikumer Man 4:45, 7:15, 10 # Dragonheart 4:45, 7:15 \* Jude 9:45 JERUSALEM THEATER 20 Marcus St. # 5610011
Beyond the Clouds 7, 9:30 \* Breaking the Waves 6:30, 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 # 6792799 Credit Card Reservations# 6794477 Rav-Mecher Bulkting, 19 Haroman Kins Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 # Bound®The Truth About Cats and Dogs 5, 7:30, 9:45 # Bound®The Truth About Cats and Dogs 5, 7:30, 9:45 # Emma®Last Man Standing®Basquist 5, 7:30, 9:45 Massaling Beauty 5:30 \* Trainspotting 12:15 am
TEL AVIV
CINEMATHEQUE Devarim 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* The Hidden Fortress 5 \* Winy Did Boghi Dharma Leave For the East ? 9:30 GAT Emmia 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 GOR-DON Sense and Sensbiblity 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. HOD 1-4 \* 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizsngot St. Eddie®Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 \* The Eighth Day 7:30, 10 \* 7
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STAR Steepers 7, 9:45 \* Jingle All the
Way 7:30 \* Double Happiness 9:45 \*
The Quest 7:15, 9:45
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G.G. GIL \* 8647202 KingpineGilmmer
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7:30, 10 \* Long Kiss Goodnight 4:40, 7:15, 10 G.G. ORI 1-3 \*\* 711223 Sleepers 7, 9:45 \* Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 \* Eddle 5, 7:30, 10 \* Eddle 5, 7:30, 10 \* Sleepers 7, 9:45 \* Dragonheart 6 Gimmer Man Gimmer Man Gimmer Man 5, 7:30, 10 \* Steepers 7, 9:45 RAV CHEN Kingpin 1:20, 9:45 \* The Palibearer 7:30, 9:45 \* Last Man Standing 9:45 \* Matilida 5 \* Jingle All the Way 5, 7:30 BAT YAM RAV CHEN Two Much 9:45 \* Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Lingle All the Way 5, 7:30 \* Jack 5, 7:30 BEERS HEBA G.G. Gill. Eddle The Cuesto Antonia's Line 1 two Much 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. ORI Sleepers 7, 10 \* Dragonheart S, 7:30, 10 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 \* 235278 Kingpin 10-Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Last Man Standing 9:45 \* HADERA

9.45 \* Last Man Standing Wispiture Grill
7:30, 9.45 \* Jingle All the Way 5 \*
Matilda 5
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7, 9:30 \* Kingpin 7:30, 10 \* Sleepers
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G.G. Gill \*7677370 Long Kiss
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Jack 5 \* Sleepers 4:30, 7:15, 10 \*
Homeward Bound II 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 \*
Kingpin 5, 7:30, 10 \* Spitfire Grill
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Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 \* Spittire Grill 5, 7:30, 10 KIRYAT BIALEK G.G. Gil. Steepers@Gilmmer Man 7, 9:30 \* Last Man Standing 7, 9:30 \* Jack 4:45, 7, 9:30 \* Matilda 4:45 \* Eddie@Dragonheart 4:45, 7, 9:30 \* Two Much@Stealing Beauty 7, 9:30 \* The Nutty Professor 7, 9:30 \* Homeward Bound it 4:45 Bound # 4:45 SOUND II 4:43 KIRYAT SHIMONA G.G. Gil. Long Kiss Goodnight 4:30, 7, 9:30 \* Gillimmer Man 9:30 \* Jack 4:30, 7 \* The Eighth Day 7, 9:30 \* Homeward Bound II 4:30

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Jingle All the Way 7:30 \* Double
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Goodnight 7:30, 10 ± Courage Under
Fire 10 ± Sleepers 7:30, 10 ± The
Truth About Cats And Dogs 4:45,7:30,
10 ± The Nutty Professor 4:45 ± The
Swan Princess (Febrew Gelog) ±
Jingle All the Way 4:45,7:30 ± Matilida
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RAMAT GAN

Jingle All the Way 4:45, 7:30 \* Matilida 4:45, 7:30

RAMAT GAN

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GAL 1-5 # 9619669 The Nutty Professore Trainspotting @ Chain Reaction@Antonia's Line 7:30, 10 \* A Time to KGI 7:15, 10 GIL 1-3 Stealing Beauty 5, 7:30, 10 \* Babysitists \* Gimmer Man 10 \* Dragonheart 5, 7:30 \* Steepers 4:30, 7:15, 10 HAZ-AHAV Gimmer Man 5, 7:30, 10 \* Honeward Bound II \* Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 \* Long Kiss Goodnight 4:45, 7:15, 10 \* Kingpin 5, 7:30, 10 \* Two Much 7:30, 10 \* Jeck 5 RAV CHEN Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:15, 9:45 \* Lone Star 9:45 \* Enama 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Beautiful Girts 7:30, 9:45 \* Jingle All the Way 5 \* Kingpils 5, 7:30

★ Beautiful Girls 7:30, 9:45 ★ Jingle All the Way 5 ★ Kingpih 5, 7:30 YEHUD RAV CHEN Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Emme 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Matilda ★ Kingpin 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Splitte Grill 9:45 ★ Jingle All the Way 5, 7:30 Phone reservations: Tel Aviv 5252244

Phone reservations: Helfs 726878
All times are p.m. unless otherwise Indi-

# KGB spy gets four vears in plea bargain

FORMER national table-tennis coach Alexander Radlis, convicted of spying for Russia, was sentenced to four years in prison and three years' suspended sentence in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Radlis admitted to spying and reached a plea bargain agreement with the district attorney, which was adopted by Judges Amnon Strashnov, Ze'ev Hammer and Shelly Timen.

The judges ruled that although the charges of espionage and contact with a foreign agent are seri-

to the country and noted that Radlis himself cut off all contact with his operators eight years ago. He also cooperated with the security authorities, confessed and showed remorse, they said.

Radlis immigrated here in 1979. after being recruited some five years earlier by the KGB in his native Russia. He was trained in espionage, especially undercover communications systems and code-deciphering. According to the charge sheet, he was initially

1988 sent letters to his operators written in invisible ink and was asked to decipher Morse code sent by the KGB. He was paid a over \$4,000 for his services.

He would meet with his operators abroad, using table-tennis matches in different countries as a cover. He was asked to relay to his operators information on the political and economic climate in Israel, details of his army reserve duty and the unit in which he served and conditions on the

### Meridor: Latest budget changes. won't hurt the poor

THE Knesset debate on the economic arrangements bill accompanying the budget continued yesterday, but was largely overshadowed by the Hebron talks.

Though voting was originally supposed to take place round the clock, no votes were actually held either Monday or yesterday during the day, by mutual agreement of the various factions.

The Treasury spent the day in a flurry of public relations activity to persuade both MKs and the press of the merits of its latest revenue-raising proposals. The sup-port of coalition MKs is essential, as it is trying to pass two of these proposals as amendments to the Arrangements Bill during the vote on its second and third readings.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor took the podium to explain the last-minute tax increases the Treasury introduced this week, meant to cover the revenue hole produced by changes made to the Arrangements Bill in the Knesset Finance Committee on Sunday. These measures are supposed to raise NIS 750 million: NIS 150m. from higher cigarette taxes, NIS 250m. from higher gas taxes, NIS 270m. from eliminating the half tax credit given to married working women, and NIS 80m. from increasing the number of sick days paid by employers, before the National Insurance Institute takes

Ministry officials open graves

of 'missing'

Yemenite children

JUDY SIEGEL

genetic testing in a lab that spe-

Their genetic profiles will then

be compared with those of fami-

lies who claim their children were

taken from them without explana-

The ministry said that the exhumation of the graves was

complicated because the bodies

were of children and buried 50

years ago in hard soil. It will issue

its findings at the conclusion of

tion nearly five decades ago.

cializes in this.

EVELYN GORDON

over the payments, from two to nine. The first two measures have already gone into effect; the government hopes to pass the latter two as amendments to the Arrangements Bill.

In total, some NIS 2.5 billion of the NIS 7.2b. deficit-reduction package will come from increased revenues rather than budget cuts mostly from taxes.

"Obviously it would have been better for the whole NIS 7.2b. to come from cutting expenditures, but it became clear that this was not possible," Meridor said. He nded the new measures from a social standpoint, noting that the gas tax hike, for instance, was accompanied by a cut in taxes on heating oil - something more necessary to the poor. Similarly, he said, since 62% of married women do not even pay taxes, eliminating their additional tax credit will not hurt the poor. Women with children already get tax credits which men do not get, he added, but this particular credit, based purely on

gender, is unjustified. Opposition MKs, however, hammered away at the government for having raised taxes despite having promised not to. "'Read my lips,' the prime minis-ter said," noted Dalia Itzik, head of Labor's response team. "I think he meant to say 'read my lipstick.' He continued to lie, time after

Dedi Zucker (Meretz) translated the word "tax" into 15 different languages, from Hindi to Portuguese, and promised to say it in every language spoken in Israel by the end of the night.

Coalition MKs responded by lauding the changes made in the bill from a social welfare stand-

"We achieved a great success," said Silvan Shalom (Likud), who heads the coalition in the Finance Committee. "The previous finance minister wasn't willing to hear about social issues."

According to the Treasury, the addition of NIS 750m. in new revenue-raising measures this week stemmed from three factors. The most important was the Finance Committee's refusal to increase co-payments for medicines and institute fees for visits to doctors and hospital clinics, leaving a NIS 560m, revenue hole.

Second was the replacement of planned cuts in child allowances with a one-year freeze on the updating of tax brackets for inflation. Originally, the Treasury had said these two options would save about the same amount, but it later discovered that the tax-bracket freeze would bring in NIS 125m.



Christians carry a banner in Bethlehem depicting the Virgin Mary in the town's Manger Square yesterday at the start of Christmas celebrations.

#### Winning cards and numbers

THE winning cards in yesterday's daily Chance drawing were the seven of spades, the queen of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the queen of clubs. In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 8, 10, 25, 34, 43 and 49, and the additional num-

### Tarif blasts Kahalani for missing Interior Committee meeting

LIAT COLLINS

RELATIONS between Internal Security Minister Avigadi Kahalani and Knesset Interior Committee Chairman Sallah Tarif reached a new low yesterday when the minister stood Tarif up. The committee met yesterday morning at 8 to discuss Kahalani's refusal to allow police commanders Aryen Amit and Elik Ron to appear before the commit-tee last week to submit their periodic reviews and discuss the

reports of tension between them. Tarif furned that Kahalani was worsening the relations between the Knesset and government and violating the Knesset House Rules and the Basic Law: The Government by not appearing: before the committee, which monitors his ministry's opera-

"Kahalani is responsible as the internal security minister for enforcing the law, but he himself is breaking it. He has overstepped his bounds in the way he relates to the committee, banning senior officers from appearing and not even bothering to turn up himself. The meeting was aimed at helping dispel public fears about what is

going on in the police force, so he's scoring in his own goal by not coming," Tarif said.

Kahalami later told Israel Radio that he would not let any politician interfere in police matters and would appear before the com-mittee himself, though he would not allow the commanders to do so. He said he was given extremeby short notice of the request to appear before the committee and could not rearrange his plans. Kahalani stressed that the law and principle of democracy required the police to be unaffected by political interference and accused Tarif of seeking headlines.

Tarif decided that in the mean-

time the committee would freeze the handling of all police requests for additional manpower, including urgent requests that were received recently.

#### Poraz becomes lone Shinni representative

MK Avraham Poraz has become Shinui's only representative in the Knesser, since the pasty spir from Meretz. Recently, the Mapam and Chizens Rights Movement factions in Merciz united as one

### Former TA municipality chief convicted of fraud and forgery

THE former director-general of the Tel Aviv Municipality, Eli Eshet, was convicted yesterday by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's

THE Health Ministry yesterday began opening 10 graves in Petah Tikva believed to be the burial place of Yemenite immigrant children who disappeared during the early years of the state of the prinistry of the state Court of fraud and forgery.

The charges relate to a period in 1992, when Eshet commissioned the services of two prisioned the services of two private investigation companies, paying them with municipality funds to "dig up dirt" on city councillors Eitan Sulami and Ben-Tzion Moradov. The councillors had consistently slammed Eshet's functioning in the municipality and had The ministry said yesterday that six graves were opened, and that all were human remains, with three the size of children. The bones will be examined at the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir, and samples will the municipality and had accused him of irregularities. undergo weeks or even months of

RAINE MARCUS

Eshet, the prosecution argued, mounted a campaign intended to blacken Moradov's and Sulami's names. He used NIS 55,000 in municipal funds to hire the Kavenet private investigation company to follow the two councillors, reporting the expenses to municipality auditors as "consultation

However, the company did not find any conclusive evidence to besmirch Sulami and Moradov, and so Eshet decided

to employ another investigation company, Tashbetz. He paid Tashbetz NIS 54,000 out of municipal funds, again listing the cash as "consulting fees for the director-general," the pros-

ecution said. Judge Zecharia Caspi concluded that Eshet was fully aware that he defrauded the municipality by falsely listing expenses and that his acts were not the result of human error. Caspi also said that municipalities should lay down clear-cut rules to prevent any misuse of their funds.

### Beersheba getting two new railway stations

THE Ports and Railways Authority is to invest NIS 40 million in the construction of two new railway stations in Beersheba, directorgeneral Shoresh Leter announced yesterday. One station will be next to the central bus station, and the second close to Soroka Hospital

SYBIL EHRLICH

and Ben-Gurion University. The planned line will be a branch of the aiready approved rail extension to Ramat Hovay, for the transport of dangerous waste materials and the transfer of the freight terminal out of the city, at a cost of NIS 150 million. The passenger line will necessitate a slight realignment of the track, as well as

the two new stations. With the exception of an experimental students train last April, no passenger trains have run to Beersheba since 1978.

### Violinist Stern picks up award and raps religious intolerance

HELEN KAYE

VIOLINIST Isaac Stern added another title to the long list of awards and honorary doctorates Monday night, when he became an honorary fellow of the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv. celebrations. The occasion also gave Stern

an opportunity to speak out against religious intolerance. Minutes before receiving his award, a video had shown Stern playing at the Mann Auditorium in 1991 during the Gulf War. A siren sounded. The camera panned over the audience putting on gas masks. The orchestra seemed to leave the stage, or some did. Not Isaac Stern. He waved away something - a prof-fered mask, maybe? - and

played.
"I don't feel proper that such special recognition should be given me for playing the fiddle and coming here from time to time," said Stern, to laughter.

He's here right now playing his fiddle at the Israel Philharmonic's 60th anniversary

On a more serious note, he said that "there's a frightening ambiguity to life in Israel right now. For those who feel as I did, and do still, how the establishment of Israel changed the word Jew from an attack on [a person] to a description of a person, it's diffi-cult to see the virulence and violence of Jew to Jew in Israel.

"Jews know better than anybody what happens when a person says 'only what I believe is right. Everyone else is wrong.' Surely it's not for Jews to do

"Can I urge all of you to con-tribute to the reunification of that spirit of hope that seduced me when first I came here, and that has brought me back at least twice a year thereafter."



